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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVI, No. 21

Section 1

January 30, 1940

CROP DAMAGE FROM COLD

Subzero temperatures began a retreat from the South yesterday, says an Associated Press report from Miami, but left behind damages estimated in the millions in Florida's citrus and vegetable growing area alone. Truck crops in Louisiana were badly damaged, but farm officials were unable to estimate amounts. Loss of 50 percent of the peach crop in Northwest Arkansas was held possible, but Extension Service officials declined a guess on general crop damage. Crop loss in Tennessee was slight, but state officials said that 15 to 20 percent of nearly 300,000 sheep had died from the cold.

A United Press report from Chicago says that in the Grain Belt farmers yesterday welcomed the heavy snowfall that spread a protective blanket over spring crops and brought moisture to parched prairies. A U.P. survey showed that the frost-blighted area extended from the Texas Panhandle to the coast of Florida and from the Gulf of Mexico to southern Illinois and Indiana. Acres of Texas citrus fruit and vegetables were ruined.

WASHINGTON MILK ORDER

With approval of President Roosevelt, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace yesterday signed an order establishing minimum producer prices for milk sold in the Washington (D.C.) milkshed and announced it would become operative February 1. C. I. Dunn, one-time Maryland dairy farmer, was appointed market administrator to enforce the order. Washington distributors failed to sign the marketing pact when it was offered to them as an agreement, but 1,105 farmers voted for its adoption, with 32 against it, in a poll conducted by the Department of Agriculture. (Washington Post.)

FARM PRICES INCREASE

Local market prices of most farm products averaged higher in mid-January than a month earlier, the Agricultural Marketing Service reports today. The index of prices received by farmers advanced to 99 percent of the 1910-1914 level--5 points higher than a year earlier and the highest in two years. The index stood at 102 in mid-January 1938. Prices of poultry products were 6 points lower than a month earlier, but all other groups showed an increase.

1939 Cotton
Review

Larger shipments of cotton to Great Britain, China, Spain and Sweden discounted decreases in export to Japan, Germany, Poland and France last year and brought the total export to a figure 5.6 percent greater in quantity and 6.6 percent greater in value than in 1938, the Department of Commerce reports. The figures were 4,558,000 bales, valued at \$239,197,000 in 1939, compared with 4,316,000 bales, worth \$224,293,000 in 1938. Imports were 142,000 bales, valued at \$7,522,000 compared with 184,000 bales, worth \$9,287,000 in 1938.

United States consumption of all cotton in 1939 amounted to 7,371,000 bales, compared with 5,902,000 in 1938, an increase of 1,469,000 bales, or 25 percent. The 1939 total is the third largest figure for cotton consumption, following that of 1937, at 7,438,000 bales, and that of 1927, at 7,405,000 bales.

The average price for 7/8-inch, middling, spot cotton at New York for 1939 was 9.5 cents a pound, or 0.9 cent above the average price for 1938. Prices picked up in May and maintained the higher level through November. In December the advance gained momentum, reaching the year's high of 11.7 cents on Dec. 13 from a low level of 8.6 cents on March 17. (New York Times.)

Tenant Loan
Applications

The Farm Security Administration announces it has received 133,096 applications for the estimated 6,971 loans available this year under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to enable tenants, share-croppers and farm laborers to buy farms. Congress appropriated \$40,000,000 for the program this fiscal year. During the first two years, ended June 30, 1939, 147,972 applications were received for the 6,180 loans made under appropriations aggregating \$35,000,000. Many of these applications are being reconsidered this year along with the new ones. The applications so far received have been in approximately 1,300 counties. Because of limited funds, the loans have not yet been extended to other counties, but have been confined to counties where the tenancy problem is most severe.

This year more applications for loans were received in Texas than any other state. With funds available for about 584 loans, Texas received 16,463 applications. Alabama was next with 15,625 applications for 588 loans; and Georgia was third with 13,033 applications for 594 loans. Funds are allocated to the states on the basis of farm population and the prevalence of tenancy. Mississippi, where about 70 percent of the farmers are tenants, will get the most loans -- 656.

Agreements

More than 45 marketing agreements are in effect for milk and dairy products, fruits, vegetables, nuts, tobacco, and hops. These programs directly affect over 1,300,000 producers. The farm value of commodities under marketing agreements for fluid milk, exclusive of dairy products, and for the various crops approximated \$300,000,000 in 1939. (Agricultural Situation, January.)

Pennsylvania "In conducting a survey of conditions on tenant
Farm Lease farms in Pennsylvania, P. I. Wrigley, of the Pennsyl-
 vania State College, discovered a unique tenant's two-
 thirds-livestock-share lease used successfully by a number of tenants,"
says Lester H. Hartwig, assistant editor, Pennsylvania State College,
in Country Gentleman (February). "It is commonly referred to through-
out Pennsylvania as the Smeltzer lease. The fundamental idea is to
encourage the keeping of livestock by permitting the tenant to use the
land as he sees fit for the production of feed grains, hay and pasture.
In general, the landlord receives one third of all the dairy products,
veal calves, hogs and crops sold. He pays one third of all bills for
seed, fertilizer and feed, with the exception of poultry feed. He pays
one third of the costs of tractor fuel, binder twine, and machine charge
for threshing grain and filling silo. The landlord usually pays one
third of the taxes. The division of potatoes and poultry grown commer-
cially varies with conditions.

"The tenant furnishes all machinery. He may raise a predetermined
number of calves for replacement purposes. The landlord owns none of
the livestock. Wrigley found during the course of his survey that land-
lords using the Smeltzer lease seemed more interested than others in im-
proving the fertility of their farms.. Yields of alfalfa and hay in
general were larger. Silos were found on most of the farms leased
under the Smeltzer system. More livestock was kept. More concentrates
were purchased for feeding. Receipts from crops sold were greater."

Butter The American commercial attache at Copenhagen re-
Packing ports to the U. S. Department of Commerce that the Danish
 government's experimental dairy during the past year has
been working on a new invention which may revolutionize the packing of
butter. The final tests have been so satisfactory that necessary
funds have been granted for patenting the invention in several countries.
Patents have already been secured in some countries. Under the inven-
tion butter can be run off into either casks or cartons in one operation.
The system is based on the use of a modern steel churn. The specialists
say that the temperature inside the steel churn can now be regulated
from the outside, and without any harmful effects on the quality, the
butter can be given a semi-fluid consistency. A special tank with built-
in-temperature and measuring gauges has been constructed in connection
with the churn. Through this tank the butter is tapped into the casks
and packages, being weighed at the same time. After one day in cold
storage the butter is said to have a fine and firm consistency. With
this new method of packing the outstanding advantage claimed is that
it can proceed as hygienically as possible direct from the sterile
churn through the sterile measuring apparatus into the sterilized
package without having butter touched by human hands. (American Butter
Review, January.)

Farm Supports "When a farm furnishes the endowment and pays
Tenn. College practically all the expenses of a college, its 400
 students, faculty, technical assistants, and general
employees, it ought to be a scoop," says Ross L. Holman, in Hoard's
Dairyman (January). "The Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute
at Madison, Tennessee, has some of the best college equipment in the
South, has no outside endowments, gets no gifts, receives very little
in tuition fees, and owes not a dime in the world. Its source of
revenue and support is 900 acres of land and 27 campus industries
which process for sale or for college consumption the products of this
farm....A broom factory manufactures and sells the output of twenty-
five acres of broom corn. Another one of the industries is the col-
lege bakery that makes all the bread used by the college and for a
large trade outside. One of the principal campus industries, however,
is the soybean factory, which processes thirty food products from the
soybeans grown on the farm...."

Testing for "The fact that our herds are practically free from
Bovine TB bovine tuberculosis has caused some people to be a
 little careless about testing," says an editorial in
Hoard's Dairyman (January). "Every now and then reports come to us
of herds in accredited areas with a high percentage of reactors. This
is due to testing not oftener than once in four or five years. As
long as tuberculosis remains in a single herd, there will be some
danger of the neighboring herds contracting the disease. We recently
learned of a herd of more than 30 cows that was practically wiped
out after three tests the past year. The owner of this herd had not
tuberculin tested for over four years. We believe those who have
registered cattle and especially if they have established families
that are known to be good producers, of good type, and good reproducers,
cannot afford to take a chance by tuberculin testing but once in five
years. We are confident that testing every year is splendid insurance,
for the work of a lifetime may be destroyed if tuberculosis gets into
a herd of well bred dairy cattle."

Syrup From A process has been perfected whereby over-ripe
Strawberries and cull strawberries can be converted into a palatable
 table syrup. Operations have been begun in the Hammond
district of Louisiana after several years of experimentation. When
completed, the strawberry refinery is expected to handle 1,500,000
pounds of waste berries at an added profit to the farmer growers. It
is expected that 300,000 gallons of strawberry syrup will be produced
each season. The syrup already is on the market. (Southern Agri-
culturist, February.)

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 22

Section 1

January 31, 1940

PRESIDENT President Roosevelt yesterday recommended to Congress
URGES RURAL that it appropriate between \$7,500,000 and \$10,000,000 for
HOSPITALS an immediate start on a program of building and equipping
fifty small hospitals in rural areas now lacking in medical facilities, says a report in the Washington Star. At a cost estimated at between \$150,000 and \$200,000 each, the proposed institutions would have about 100 beds each, would be operated and maintained by the community in which located and would be open to persons "who literally can afford to contribute little or nothing toward their treatment."

"I would suggest," the President wrote, "that these hospitals be simple, functional structures utilizing inexpensive materials and construction methods. The facilities of the Federal Works Agency should be utilized in the planning and execution of the hospital projects. Title to these institutions should be held by the Federal Government, but operation should be a local financial responsibility." He emphasized to Congress that his plan does not constitute a renewal of a public works program through the method of grants in aid. General supervision of the program would be vested in the Public Health Service.

FLORIDA Florida's congressional delegation will confer with
CROP AID President Roosevelt today in an attempt to obtain immediate Federal aid for Florida's "destitution and crop ruin" resulting from last week's unprecedented cold wave, Senator Claude Pepper of Florida announced last night. He said the group would advise the President that in 20 or more counties vegetables and truck crops have been almost wholly wiped out while citrus damage varies from 50 to 75 percent. (Washington Post.)

U.S. COTTON The Department announced yesterday that the rate of
EXPORT RATE payment under the cotton export program would be reduced to zero on cotton, and on card strips and comber waste, effective at 2 p.m., E.S.T., January 30, 1940. Present rates of payment on cotton products, other than card strips and comber waste, will be continued. Suspension of operations under the cotton export program, except for cotton products, was made necessary by the fact that commitments under the program are nearing the total of available funds.

Bee Disease "Considerable confusion seems to exist as to the
Diagnosis prevalence of parafoolbrood in the United States," says
 J. I. Hambleton, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, in Gleanings in Bee Culture (February). "It is probably safe to assume that outside of certain limited areas in the Southeastern part of the United States few persons have seen parafoolbrood to recognize it. So far as records in the Division of Bee Culture are concerned, only one sample of parafoolbrood has been received from a Northern State and that was received through the mails at Beltsville, Md., during September, 1939. Assertions have been made that samples of parafoolbrood received by the Bee Culture Laboratory are diagnosed as American foolbrood...In the hive the two diseases are readily confused but when examined microscopically, they show no similarity whatsoever and are easily distinguished...Laboratory experience and facilities are essential in making a correct diagnosis. Because of the comparative scarcity of parafoolbrood and the fact that little is known about it, the Bee Culture Laboratory takes unusual precautions in making diagnoses, and when microscopical examination indicates parafoolbrood, the organism is cultured to make certain of its identity..."

Mammoth "Mammoth clover may once more take its place as a
Clover front line meadow crop," says M. R. Haag, of the
 Wisconsin Extension Service, in Capper's Farmer (February). "A strain of this legume recently has been attracting attention in Wisconsin for its ability to outperform its smaller cousin, medium red clover. J. H. Torrie, agronomist at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, reports that the strain has been grown on the P. C. Graham farm, Grant county, for more than 40 years...During the winter of 1938-39, nearly every field of medium red clover in southwestern Wisconsin was reported to have suffered some injury. Fields of mammoth clover on the Graham farm and plots at the Experiment Station also showed no winter killing.

"In yield, the mammoth variety also has outdone medium red. In 1939, on the first cutting a mammoth-timothy mixture gave 2.23 tons per acre while medium red clover and timothy yielded 1.61 tons...No experiments have been run on feeding values with the crop. However, observations at the Graham farm indicate that it is fully equal to medium red clover when cut at the one-third or quarter-bloom stage..."

Record Rayon The magazine Rayon Organon has reported that pro-
Production duction and consumption of rayon yarn in the United
 States in 1939 was the highest in history. Total rayon production was 384,200,000 pounds, 12 percent more than the 341,900,000 of the previous record year of 1937 and compared with 28,476,000 in 1938. Domestic consumption last year totaled 462,375,000 pounds, another record, and 41 percent greater than the 327,120,000 pounds of 1938. (A.P.)

Records of
Activities

"A new sheet has been added to the 1940 Iowa record books in which families belonging to farm business associations will be keeping records of figures on the income and outflow of farm and home finances," says Wallaces' Farmer (January 13). "Keeping tab on the money side of life is not a new idea -- from 600 to 700 families belonging to the five farm business associations in Iowa have been at it for some time. But the new sheet in the record book will tabulate the social participation of the family and its estimated cost in money and time. Also included will be a summary sheet for the year's activities. This will group the activities under formal organizations -- church, lodge, etc.; informal group activities with outsiders, such as visiting, entertaining and movies; group activities within the family -- reading, cards, music; individual activities and hobbies -- reading, stamp collecting, etc.... 'Earning and use of money are not the whole story of farm living,' says Dr. C. Arnold Anderson, assistant professor of sociology, who, with Dr. R. E. Wakeley and Dr. W. H. Stacy, originator of the idea, worked on the plan. 'There is time which is not a productive and consumptive resource, but is utilized for social contacts and other non-economic activities. Therefore, if a family is trying to conduct its life with maximum efficiency and satisfaction, it should endeavor to evaluate and plan its social contacts along with farm and home management.'..."

Louisiana
Strawberry

A new strawberry plant known as BK-6-30, a cross between the Blakemore and Klondyke varieties, will be given its final tests this season on 1200 farms after about five years of experimentation. The strawberry breeding program will be continued at the Louisiana Experiment Station in an effort to improve the berry even more. The new berry is causing a great deal of interest among growers. It is sweeter than the Klondyke, is resistant to leaf spot or scorch, begins fruiting about ten days earlier than the Klondyke and keeps producing about two weeks later. (Fruit Products Journal, January.)

Greenbelt
Cooperatives

After two and a half years' operation the co-operative stores in Greenbelt, Maryland, are showing substantial profits and their ownership has been taken over entirely by the town's residents, says a report in the Washington Star. Heretofore the enterprises had the support of the Consumer Distribution Corporation, a non-profit agency set up under the will of the late Edward A. Filene, to aid consumer cooperatives. In announcing that the residents of Greenbelt have completely taken over the project, Percy S. Brown of New York, president of the corporation, said the town becomes the first in the modern history of the United States to attempt putting the ownership of all its businesses in the hands of all its people. Mr. Brown explained that Greenbelt people have at last subscribed to 50 percent of the stock in the cooperative, thereby meeting the final requirement necessary to assume control.

Senate Both Houses appointed conferees on H. R. 7805,
Jan. 29 emergency supplemental appropriation bill, which contains a provision making the 1940 parity-payments appropriation available for expenditure in the same manner as the 1939 appropriation.

Senate Committee on Appropriations reported with amendments H. R. 8067, urgent deficiency appropriation bill, which contained no items for this Department as it passed the House. (S. Rept. 1167.)

Adjourned until Thursday, February 1.

House Received from the President the following supplemental estimates for this Department (H. Doc. 594); to
Jan. 29 Com. on Appropriations: Emergency and incipient outbreaks of insects and plant diseases, \$3,000,000; Forest fire deficiency, \$3,550,000; Federal Seed Act, \$15,000.

Bills reported: Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments reported without amendment, H. R. 8151, to provide travel expenses of civilian officers and employees upon official change of station (H. Rept. 1534), and H. R. 8152, providing for procurements without advertising if the amount is less than \$100 (H. Rept. 1535); Committee on Agriculture reported without amendment H. R. 7878, to amend the crop-loan law so that liens given by tenants will relate to only so much of the crop as represents their interest under their agreement with the landlord (H. Rept. 1538).

Received from the Veterans' Administration a proposed bill to amend the Civil Service Retirement Act; to Com. on Civil Service.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Tractor "For many years, engineers designed tractors to
Designs meet the demands of two operations: First, a certain number of 14-in. bottoms; second, a thresher of a certain size and capacity," says an editorial in Farm Implement News (January 25). "Other machines and tools are now the deciding factors in establishing sizes. A specific tractor, for example, may be amply powered and have sufficient traction to meet the load imposed by two bottoms, but when hitched to a certain size corn picker, power take-off operated, the engine may be a little short in power to meet the farmer's needs. So the cylinders are enlarged or the engine speed is stepped up to correlate power with the job that is the limiting factor in satisfactory farm operation. The same situation is encountered in combining with the power take-off. Consequently the tractor assortment frequently includes what seem superficially to be overlapping sizes; a one to two plow, a light two-plow and a strong two-plow, according to old forms of designation, all in the same line. Yet each meets the demand of some specific territory..."

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Vol: LXXVI, No. 23

Section 1

February 1, 1940

WALLACE ON U.S.D.A. SUPPLY BILL Secretary Wallace yesterday called upon the House to restore the \$154,000,000 deleted from the 1941 agriculture supply bill by the Appropriations Committee, says a report in the New York Times. While the House was debating the bill preparatory to taking it up today for amendments, Mr. Wallace, at a press conference, called the cuts made by the committee "dangerously threatening" to the whole farm program and said that they would mean "an impairment of the income of a large part of our population" which "is already at a great disadvantage."

Mr. Wallace urged that Congress provide parity payments, which this year amounted to \$228,000,000, but which were not included in the present bill. This item was not requested by President Roosevelt in his budget, because Congress had not provided for financing it through taxes. Mr. Wallace again suggested his certificate plan for financing parity payments. Expressing the belief that Congress and the people wanted the farmers to be "fairly treated," he asserted in a statement that he did not wish his view to be considered as "critical of attempts at economy" and that he would continue to put forward proposals "to make farm programs self-financing."

BRITISH WAR TIME TRADE Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain made an eloquent plea to neutrals yesterday to be tolerant of, if not sympathetic with, British war time measures that interfere with their trade, says a London cable by the New York Times correspondent. Describing how the war had forced a revolution upon British economic and industrial life, the Prime Minister emphasized that this, as well as his country's economic relations with other nations, had been dictated by the stress of the necessities of war. He made clear that whatever changes the war had forced in trade relations with the United States were of a temporary nature.

A Washington report in the Times says Prime Minister Chamberlain's support of Secretary Hull's tariff views in his speech yesterday was warmly welcomed by Mr. Hull in commenting on it at his press conference. Mr. Chamberlain's support, Mr. Hull said, expressed the primary purpose of the economic policy of this government in the reciprocal trade program.

CITRUS EMBARGO The Florida Citrus Commission yesterday placed an embargo, effective at 6 p.m. today, on marketing of oranges, grapefruit and tangerines to keep frozen fruit off the market. The embargo will apply to fresh fruit only and will not affect canned products. (A.P.)

Agriculture and Industry Terming the coming years for our country the "agrindustrial age," H. A. Clymer, director of the Kansas Industrial Development Commission, told the members of the State Board of Agriculture that industry and agriculture had combined their powers and should work together hereafter, says a report in the Topeka Capital. The industrial commission director dealt with two possibilities of enlarging America's agricultural markets. One method, he said, was the industrial consumption of farm products. The other was the expansion of now existing markets by modern marketing and advertising methods. "Chemurgy is a new word now in common usage," he said, "and it means the whole field of work being done to advance the use of farm products in industry through applied science. It means that chemistry and allied sciences are to be put to work for the benefit of the farmer." Twelve states spend \$2,500,000 annually advertising their farm products, he said. California ranks first as an agricultural advertiser, spending \$866,000 last year, in behalf of oranges, vinters, prunes, and other foodstuffs. Florida ran a close second with a budget of \$850,000. New York ranked third. Funds for advertising and marketing projects are raised by special unit taxes or by matched dollars from associations representing certain products. (PPS 60.)

Homogenized Milk Study A paper by P. H. Tracy, of the University of Illinois, in Dairy World (January) discusses studies at the Illinois station for the past seven years on the possibilities of homogenized milk. "It has been demonstrated in a good many markets throughout the country," he says in part, "that the introduction of homogenized milk will increase sales. The increase can be attributed to both new business and increased consumption on the part of old customers. The ever-increasing average age of our population means that in the future more emphasis will need to be placed upon the consumption of milk by adult classes if we are to maintain the present level of milk consumption in this country. Homogenized milk is one means to this end. Many instances have been brought to the writer's attention where homogenized milk has not only resulted in adult consumers increasing their consumption, but has made milk drinkers of others who before never cared for the flavor of milk or who thought milk did not agree with them..."

Lard Use Preliminary to a national effort to promote the greater use of lard, representatives of swine producers met recently at Peoria. The name American Pork Producers Associated, Inc., was chosen for the campaign organization. Arrangements were made for speakers to appear at Farm and Home week gatherings and other agricultural meetings. Stores throughout the United States will push pork products. (Farm Journal & Farmer's Wife, Feb.)

War-Time Farming

The December Journal of the (British) Ministry of Agriculture comments on agriculture in war time, saying: "In 1916, during the war, when the food-production campaign really started, we had 11,051,000 acres of arable land. By 1918 this had been increased to 12,399,000 acres. With the return of peace, however, farmers reverted to grassing down and the arable acreage shrunk again, the fall between 1918 and 1938 being 3,500,000 acres. Simultaneously our population (England and Wales) increased from 36 million in 1918 to 41 million in 1937. Although our dependence on imported foodstuffs is greater than in the last war, not to speak of the 'seventies, we have certain factors in our favour as compared with 1916. At the outbreak of the present war a good start had already been made in breaking up or improving our poor grass land, the land fertility campaign was in full swing, and the tractors and other machinery available, and since substantially increased, ensure that the necessary cultivations can be effected much more speedily, even if no better, than in 1916..."

The Journal contains seven articles on farming in war time. It has been decided that during the war the Journal shall be published at three-month intervals in place of the monthly issue in peace time.

Homes of America

The February Survey Graphic, third in a "Calling America" series, is devoted to homes. "This number," says a note, "deals with land and buildings as stuff of that defense for the households of the United States. It tells of the sheet erosion of soils the country over, of which the Dust Bowl is just an overt, drastic example of our poor stewardship of American earth. It tells of congestion, of decayed cores of old cities and the splayed out evils of motor slums; of taxes, graft and racketeering burdening new construction; of the cramp of outmoded laws and frozen savings; it tells of our failure, by and large, to bring to the elementary problem of shelter the ingenuity and organization with which we produce films or gas engines or bombers. But this number tells also of demonstrations that demonstrate; tells of organic gains in a decade that outrange the scatter and ineptitude of a half a century; of the pushings out of planners, of architects, engineers, legislators, civic administrators; tells of government credit and public authorities, private investment housing, cooperative housing of the new awareness on the part of tenants, builders, labor leaders, social workers, citizens generally...."

Country Life Association

First full-time farm resident -- and first woman -- ever elected president of the American Country Life Association is Mrs. Raymond Sayre. She lives on a livestock farm near Ackworth, Iowa, 35 miles southeast of Des Moines, and is mother of three children. Some have criticized the organization as being too much a group of professionals, with too few farmers. Election of Mrs. Sayre indicates a trend toward more participation by farm folks. (Farm Journal & Farmer's Wife, February.)

House Began general debate on H. R. 8202, agricultural
Jan. 30 appropriation bill, which was reported from the Com-
 mittee on Appropriations (H. Rept. 1540).

 Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments
reported without amendment H. R. 8150, providing for the barring of
claims against the United States after a period of 10 years. (H. Rept.
1541).

 The Senate was not in session.

 (From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Freeze According to the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin,
Damage Florida has had the most severe freeze in 25 years, with
 temperatures ranging from 15° to 22° in citrus areas,
and 18° to 27° in winter trucking districts Sunday and Monday mornings.
They were below 25° from 10 to 15 hours in citrus districts of the
north and central portions. Truck was nearly totally destroyed in all
sections, with an estimated damage of nearly \$13,000,000 in Dade County
alone, though forced harvest by the previous freeze salvaged many cars
of cabbage and lettuce. Sugar cane was frozen, but much can be
salvaged. Unharvested oranges, more than half the total crop, tangerines,
and grapefruit are nearly a total loss; forced harvest salvaged hundreds
of cars of choice fruit, but losses will run into millions of dollars.
Citrus trees had been drought-shocked last April and were in semi-
dormant condition, with no tender growth, and they probably weathered
the freeze with comparatively little wood damage, although severe de-
foliation is expected. The extent of tree damage can not yet be de-
termined, but they were in the best possible shape to withstand the cold.

Cotton Stamp Executives of leading cotton-selling chain-store
Proposal members of the Institute of Distribution have endorsed
 and promised full support for the Federal Surplus Com-
modities Corporation's preliminary program for a cotton stamp plan,
similar to the food stamp plan now in effect in a number of cities
throughout the country, says a report in the New York Times. An
"experimental approach" in a few trial communities was favored. The
program was explained by Milo R. Perkins, president of the FSCC, and
Philip Maguire, executive vice president of the corporation. They said
that, in its present form, the cotton stamp plan is practically identical
in principle to the food stamp scheme. Mr. Perkins, following the meet-
ing, said that the resolution adopted by the Institute of Distribution,
together with the endorsements of the Cotton Consumption Council and
other groups ranging from cotton-producer to retailer, will now go to
Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 24

Section 1

February 2, 1940

DEPARTMENT STAFF CHANGES Secretary Wallace has announced that Clyde W. Warburton, Director of Extension Work since 1923, has been appointed Deputy Governor of the Farm Credit Administration and that M. L. Wilson has left his post as Under-Secretary of Agriculture to succeed Mr. Warburton. "I do not think there is anyone in government better fitted for the job of Deputy Governor than Mr. Warburton," said Secretary Wallace. "He organized the federal extension service in its modern form; and supervised the federal emergency flood loans of 1927 and the drought loans of 1930 and succeeding years...M. L. Wilson is one of the few men with the ability, training and experience necessary to carry on the work of Director of Extension. He was the first county agent in Montana and later assistant director in that state...He served as director of the subsistence homesteads division of the Department from 1933 to 1935." A report in the New York Times says that President Roosevelt sent to the Senate yesterday the nomination of Claude R. Wickard of Indiana to be Under-Secretary of Agriculture.

FOREIGN TRADE BOARD URGED A bill to create a foreign trade board, modeled after the British Board of Trade, to deal with foreign financial and commercial activities of the government, was introduced yesterday by Senator Vandenberg. The proposal was regarded as part of the Michigan Senator's campaign against extension of the reciprocal trade agreements act to June 12, 1943, which the Administration seeks. The Tariff Commission would be abolished under Mr. Vandenberg's plan. Functions now exercised by the commission would be vested in the new agency, together with other activities "now scattered through fifty different bureaus and departments of Federal Government," the Senator explained. (Press.)

COMMERCE PROGRAM For the first time in history the Commerce Department is attempting to get a month-by-month picture of conditions in the entire American manufacturing industry by sending questionnaires to 1,800 companies held to be a cross section of the productive enterprise of the United States. Officials said yesterday the object of collecting this information was not only to give the government a picture of industrial conditions, but to aid industry itself in giving it a full knowledge of conditions. They said the information was similar to that obtained by the Department of Agriculture from farmers and would fill a gap in the country's business information services. The work is being carried on by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Wheat Problem "The difficulty of disposing of Australia's
in Australia wheat at anything like a profitable price, without
 imposing on the national finances a heavier strain
than they are already bearing, indicates the need for some definite
policy aiming at an easing of the position as far as future crops
are concerned," says an editorial in the Pastoral Review (Melbourne,
December 16). "There seems to be little doubt that the end of the
present season will see Australia with large unsold stocks, for which,
however, the grower will have been paid from the national treasury.
That treasury is far from inexhaustible, and while the Federal Govern-
ment is committed to drawing on it for the 1939-40 crop, it obviously
cannot continue to do so to the same extent for the 1940-41 and sub-
sequent crops in the event of there being no basic improvement in the
general world wheat situation....Restriction of acreage could be
effected in several ways, but probably the most effective would be
an intimation that Commonwealth assistance for the industry will not
be made general over next year's crop and that it will be given only
to growers who undertake not to plant more than a maximum specified
area. Restriction of production may be regarded as more or less a
policy of despair, but where the only alternative is an unprofitable
price due to a glut it is the lesser of two evils."

Book on "The book 'Turkey Management' by Marsden and
Turkeys Martin (of the Department) is a remarkably clear
 text," says H. L. Wilcke, who reviews it in the
U. S. Egg and Poultry Magazine (February). "It carries the reader
through the entire range of turkey production, from the origin of
domestic turkeys through to the selection of breeders, management of
breeding flocks, incubation, brooding, feeding, range management,
disease control and marketing. It is readable and instructive to
either the novice or the experienced turkey producer....A particularly
good feature is the inclusion of rations recommended by various exper-
iment stations and the U. S. Department of Agriculture for both
breeders and growing stock....The entire book is well-illustrated,
well-organized and well-written. It reflects the practical attitudes
of the authors, and it is a useful book in the classrooms, the library
of the producer, breeder, marketing man or veterinarian."

N.Y. Grape F. E. Gladwin, pomologist of the New York Experi-
Breeding ment Station, says in Country Gentleman (February)
 that although the station has been breeding and testing
grapes for forty years, only twenty-five seedlings have been deemed
worthy of naming and introduction. During the period more than 30,000
seedlings have been grown and of these some 20,000 have already fruited.
In the beginning, he says, it was assumed that a combination of such
varieties as Concord, Catawba, Delaware, Niagara and other good varieties
should give still more satisfactory varieties, but these sorts and many
more well known have offered practically nothing in the improvement of
our grapes. Some very satisfactory seedlings, he says, have been bred
from a combination of poor to mediocre parents.

Farm Problem T. Swann Harding of the Office of Information, in
Approaches Dynamic America (February) reviews the book, Agriculture
 in Modern Life (Harper & Brothers). Part I, Our Rural
People, is by O. E. Baker; Part II, A Plan for Rural Life, is by Ralph
Borsodi; Part III, Science and Folklore in Rural Life, is by M. L. Wil-
son. There is a dialogue on the Future of Rural Life, by all three au-
thors. "This excellent discussion of agricultural problems is by three
distinguished experts in the field of agriculture as an art, a science,
and a way of life," says the reviewer. "Baker is the leading United
States authority on rural population problems and the impact of the bio-
logical reproduction of the race upon the economic, social and productive
life of farm people. Borsodi has experimented successfully in a type of
modernized subsistence farming which he considers a solution to the agri-
cultural problem. Wilson is at present Under Secretary of Agriculture;
he is an economist, a historian, a philosopher, and a devotee of the
broad cultural approach to the varied problems which these days beset
agriculture...

"The book does not solve the farm problem. It does not attempt to
do that. But it offers much material for fruitful contemplation, it is
full of factual information, and such discussions together of those who
do not see eye-to-eye are always of great value in oiling the democratic
machinery to make it function smoothly. The book is suggestive and stimu-
lating. No one who is seriously interested in the problem of American
agriculture as an industry should think of failing to read this book."

Wool Vs. In the Australian Journal of Science (December 21)
Artificial Martin R. Freney writes on wool in competition with arti-
Fibres ficial fibres. "Wool is called upon to fulfil many dif-
 ferent functions and it is probable that a special arti-
ficial fibre will be developed to do each of the jobs of wool as a textile
fibre. For some of these jobs cellulose fibres are already satisfactory
and their utility might be extended. Both the cellulose and synthetic
fibres and also the protein fibres can only be regarded, in the present
stage of their development, as wool adulterants, for large percentages
of wool must be present in a fabric to give it its woolly nature...

"The protein fibres, however, are in a different category. Crude
protein material is cheap and enormous supplies might be obtained from
the fish of the sea. This source is an international one which could be
drawn upon by any nation and so it could serve as an abundant source of
cheap raw material. But methods must first be found, and they will be
found, whereby this raw material can be converted into a fibre having
the essential molecular structure of wool and which will consequently
have the properties of wool...

"Wool's best defence against these possible developments is to lower
production costs to such an extent that the makers of artificial fibres
have little margin for profit. Next, wool's disadvantages (it shrinks,
is attacked by moths, and is prickly) must be removed, so that it will
become more popular. Lastly, no effort should be spared to increase our
knowledge of wool so that it becomes plastic in the hands of the chemist
to use as a raw material for new products."

1939 Farm Income Farmers' total cash income from marketings, commodities placed under loan and government payments last year is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at \$8,518,000,000. In 1938 total cash income from the same source was \$8,081,000,000 and in 1937 was \$9,111,000,000. The BAE said that cash income from farm marketings and from commodities placed under loan in 1939 was \$7,711,000,000 compared with \$7,599,000,000 in 1938. This increase of 1.5 percent in income from marketings last year resulted from increased income from crops, as livestock and livestock products revenue was unchanged from a year earlier. Government payments on the agricultural conservation program, sugar act payments and price parity payments last year totaled \$807,000,000, a sharp increase over the \$482,000,000 in 1938. (Wall Street Journal.)

World Trade Planning (January 2, London) discusses "Exports in
in War Time War," saying in part: "The development which is most significant for war-time problems is the increasing utilization of 'unorthodox' trade agreements alongside the older and 'orthodox' trade agreements such as those concluded between Britain, Canada and the United States. 'Unorthodox' trade agreements--clearing, payments, and purchasing agreements--are not capable of any watertight division. They all imply a bilateralism under which the State becomes concerned with the amount and direction of foreign trade. The broad distinction between clearing and payments agreements is that the first are enforced by free exchange (usually creditor) countries, while the second are enforced by clocked currency countries. Purchasing agreements are usually negotiated between unofficial bodies who agree to buy from each other certain stipulated commodities, the respective governments taking note of them."

Approved "Until recently purchasers of canned dog food were
Dog Food without a guide to a safe and nutritious product," says
 the North American Veterinarian (February). "Now this situation has been changed, largely through the efforts of a small group of veterinarians, members of the American Animal Hospital Association. A program was worked out by which it would be possible to have dog foods tested by competent nutritionists and member hospitals of the A.A.H.A. These authorities now make chemical analyses and biological assays, and hospitals conduct practical feeding tests for palatability and laxation. Owners of dogs may now buy with confidence any dog food that has the Seal of Approval on the label. The American Veterinary Medical Association has added its name to that of the American Animal Hospital Association, in approving foods that have met the requirements."

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1 February 5, 1940

FARM BILL

According to an Associated Press report, President Roosevelt has told reporters that he was standing on his budget and a \$900,000,000 agricultural appropriation for the year beginning July 1. He discussed the farm appropriations at a press conference in Hyde Park.

MIDWEST

CONFERENCE

Easier credit conditions for agriculture were indicated last week at a four-state livestock and pasture conference of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, says a special report to the New York Times. "Any responsible farmer seeking to enter livestock production will be financed by his local banker on a reasonable basis," said M. A. Limbocker of the Citizens National Bank of Emporia. "There is a mistaken idea that money is not available. As a matter of fact banks in Kansas in the first six months of 1939 made 280,000 loans totaling \$85,000,000."

NEW UNDER SECRETARY

Claude R. Wickard, appointed Under Secretary of Agriculture February 1 by President Roosevelt, has a background which includes nearly a quarter of a century of active farm operation, technical training in agriculture and 6 1/2 years of administrative work in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

FARM PRODUCTS

DEMAND GOOD

The demand for farm products, measured by volume and price, continues good, despite the recent downturn in industrial production, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Large quantities of farm products are moving into domestic consumption at prices averaging higher than at this time last year. Cash farm income in the early months of 1940 is expected to exceed income in the same months of 1939, but the purchasing power of farm products will continue below prewar. The ratio of prices received to prices paid by farmers is about 20 percent below the prewar average of 100.

Products not sharing in the higher prices this winter compared with last include tobacco, hogs, poultry and eggs. The supply of tobacco is the largest on record and the European market has been shut off; the 1939 pig crop was the largest in 16 years; production of poultry and eggs has been unusually heavy this winter. The relatively high price of feed is unfavorable to livestock producers generally.

Japanese Hedge Cherry "Some years ago seed of the *Prunus japonica* was sent from the Bureau of Plant Industry to the Minnesota Experiment Station for trial," says C. Bolles, in Country Gentleman (February). "Seedlings that promised to enrich the Northland's rather short fruit list were sought. A Minnesota nurseryman, however, sensed merit in one seedling that was a spiraea-like shrub, as a hedge plant, and began propagating to stock up a supply for the North Central states. Initial sales exceeded expectations. The Japanese Hedge Cherry, as it is called, is a non-suckering, very hardy, rapid grower that makes a clean trim hedge of unusual beauty. Forming a dense growth of medium height the fine bright green foliage takes on a high autumn coloring. The bushes, too, are distinctive in that they are covered, when the leaves appear, by bluish pink flowers which are followed by shining wine-red cherries of medium size. It stands pruning well."

Greengold, New Squash "A new family-size squash, christened Greengold, has been developed by horticulturists of the Minnesota Experiment Station in St. Paul," says Edwin C. Torrey, in Country Gentleman (February). "Selections from the Buttercup, a small squash introduced in 1932 by North Dakota horticulturists, were inbred for six years, and one selection of the desirable size and quality has now been on trial for three years in Minnesota and other states and also in Southern Canada and approved generally by farm-family growers. Among the strong points of this new squash is its ability to mature in ninety days or less in Northern localities and its better adaptation than the ordinary Hubbard varieties to prolonged dry weather...In tests at University Farm it kept as well in storage as the Green Hubbard and other varieties. Under repeated tests it has also kept well in home storage, sometimes up to May of the year following harvest. Its small size, about a dozen to an ordinary bushel basket, makes it especially suitable for serving in homes and for handling by dealers. It should prove outstanding as a home and commercial variety."

Record Savings Improved business and employment were reflected in year-end figures for mutual savings banks of the United States, holding more than one-fifth of American bank deposits. In assets, deposits and number of depositors they now stand at their all-time peak, according to the National Association of Mutual Savings Banks. These institutions, operating in 17 States, last December 30 had deposits of \$10,480,684,326, a gain of \$245,252,874 for the year 1939. Although the net addition to deposits was moderate, it reflected the public will to save, in the judgment of mutual savings bank officials. (Press.)

Senate Bills passed: H. R. 7342, to amend the Emergency
Feb. 1 Farm Mortgage Act so as to extend for two years the
authority for Land Bank Commissioner loans (this bill
was then sent to the President); S. Res. 225, authorizing the Secre-
tary of Agriculture to make a study of a tract of forest land in
Lincoln County, Oreg.

Committee on Appropriations reported with amendments H. R. 7922,
independent offices appropriation bill (S. Rept. 1177.) Mr. Holman
submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to this bill, to
prohibit use of this appropriation for purchase of oleomargarine or
butter substitutes except for cooking.

House Continued debate on H. R. 8202, agricultural
Feb. 1 appropriation bill. Agreed to an amendment to increase
the dry-land agriculture item to \$226,828, the 1940 ap-
propriation.

The following amendments were rejected:

Forest-land acquisition: to increase this item to \$4,000,000.

Japanese beetle control: to decrease this item to \$50,000.

Dutch elm disease eradication: to strike out this item.

Dust explosions: to add \$30,000 for control of dust explosions.

The following amendments were ruled out of order:

Forest influences: to increase this item to \$170,000.

Starches research: to make available from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for
research on starches from potatoes and surplus crops.

Gypsy and brown-tail moth control: to strike out this item.

House Passed H. R. 8202, agricultural appropriation bill.
Feb. 2 The following amendments were agreed to:
Sugar Act of 1937: Adding \$47,975,000 for this
item.

Conservation and use: Inserting a proviso permitting use of ap-
propriations under this item to reimburse the 1940 appropriation
on account of obligations in connection with the grant-of-aid
program, crop-insurance program, and agricultural-conservation
program.

Crop insurance: Correcting a typographical error so as to make the
crop-insurance item \$5,423,200.

The following amendments were rejected:

Cotton insects: Increasing this item to \$1,326,800.

Market news service: Decreasing this item to \$600,000.

Warehouse Act: Decreasing this item to \$400,000.

Soil Conservation Service: Increasing by \$3,000,000 the item for
"soil and moisture conservation and land-use operations, demon-
strations, and information"; Increasing by \$1,500,000 the same
item; Increasing the same item by \$275,000.

A. A. A. payments: Limiting AAA payments to \$1,000 for any one
party.

Farm tenancy: Inserting an item of \$25,000,000 for farm-tenancy loans.

R. E. A. promotions: To strike out the proviso limiting promotions in the Rural Electrification Administration.

Surplus Removal: An amendment to add \$72,678,812, for the domestic surplus-removal program, was ruled out of order.

Rural Electrification: A point of order was sustained, deleting the proviso requiring the \$40,000,000 R.E.A. item to be borrowed from the R.F.C.

Submarginal land: A motion by Mr. Taber to recommit the bill with instructions that the item for "land utilization and retirement of submarginal land" be reduced to \$1,100,000 was rejected.

The House adjourned until Feb. 5. The Senate adjourned until February 6.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Bang Disease Campaign Practical eradication of Bang's disease from dairy and breeding cattle in 209 counties in 17 States has been announced by the Department. The counties were officially listed, as of February 1, as "modified accredited Bang's disease-free areas" by Doctor Mohler, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry. These gains indicate, Doctor Mohler said, that Bang's disease is yielding to the campaign of eradication by Federal and State veterinary officials and livestock owners. The States are: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

1939 REA Progress For every 30 seconds that ticked off from the beginning to the end of 1939, one person in a rural community received service for the first time from an REA-financed electric-power system. This expansion of service to 1 million persons -- approximately 225,000 families or other users -- is a year's work upon which REA looks with pride. One quarter of all American farms now have high-line electric service -- more than double the number at the time REA was established. The number of connections to REA lines was 400,000 at the year end compared with 176,000 1 year ago and 44,000 2 years ago. Of the present number 86 percent are farms; 6 percent are nonfarm residences, and 8 percent are commercial and industrial enterprises and public buildings. The average size REA Co-op has an allotment of \$400,000, and will serve 1,200 users from 400 miles of lines. Since 88.4 percent of REA borrowers are cooperative, these figures may be taken as typical of the REA program. Only Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut have no projects. (Rural Electrification News, January.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 6, 1940

PAN-AMERICAN BANKING PLAN Financial experts of the Western Hemisphere yesterday made plans for the setting up of a \$100,000,000 banking association, designed to stimulate trade among the Americas, according to a United Press report. The group consists of members of the monetary subcommittee of the Economic Advisory Committee named at the meeting of Foreign Ministers at Panama just after the beginning of the European war. The committee was appointed to help insulate the Americas against economic shocks.

The bank would be set up by the purchase of capital stock by the American Republics, with the United States scheduled to take \$5,000,000 worth. Argentina and Brazil would take similar amounts, while the smallest nations--on the basis of international trade--would take \$500,000 in stock. Spokesmen stressed that this would be the first bank of its kind in the world and should serve to maintain economic relations among the Americas even after the war.

WHEAT CROP INSURANCE The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation announced yesterday that on January 25, 320,000 wheat growers had taken out all-risk crop insurance on their 1940 crop and that the corporation had acquired 12,159,113 bushels of wheat as premium payments. In 1939, 166,000 wheat farmers insured their crops. The wheat reserve held by the corporation, which is composed largely of premiums paid by producers of winter wheat, is stored in 97 locations in 16 states. In so far as practicable, the corporation has put its stocks where they will be convenient for probable indemnity requirements. (Press.)

FATS, POULTRY RESEARCHES Search for new and extended uses for animal fats and poultry products and byproducts will be included in the initial work of the new Department regional laboratories, Secretary Wallace announced today. The studies of animal fats will be carried on at the Eastern Laboratory at Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, where work has already been planned on milk products, Irish potatoes, apples, vegetables and tobacco. The poultry products research will be carried on at the Western Laboratory in California where plans have already been made for studies of fruits, wheat, vegetables, Irish potatoes and alfalfa.

Origin
of Foods

The foods which we eat to-day may be fairly accurately traced back to nearly all parts of the world, says Warren T. Vaughan, author of "Why We Eat What We Eat" in Scientific Monthly (February). "The new world has been no mean contributor. From North America come huckleberries, cranberries, pecans, hickory, pumpkin and possibly the kidney bean. Cocoa, corn, avocado, peanut, all-spice, guava, vanilla, sapodilla, papaya, star-apple, cassava, chocho and sweet potato stem from tropical America, while pineapple, lima bean, Irish potato, tomato, nate and the herbaceous peppers found their origin in South America. A few foods were already so widely distributed in a cultivated or semi-cultivated form at the commencement of exploration that their original sources must remain unknown. This applies particularly to banana, plantain, ginger and yam.

"Nor is the list complete. Within the last half century we have observed many new importations, particularly in our own country, where climatic conditions are so varied that both tropical foods and those that thrive in the cold northern climates may find suitable conditions for growth. The labors of the Bureau of Plant Industry, so delightfully described by David Fairchild in his memoirs, 'The World Was My Garden,' have made available within our own boundaries many of the most delectable of foods, especially those fruits indigenous to the tropics, such as mango, mangosteen, sapodilla, guava and akee. As time goes on these will undoubtedly come into more wide-spread use, as have their less perishable tropical cousins, orange, grapefruit, banana and pineapple..."

Presenting

Results of
Research

Victor R. Boswell, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, speaking recently before the American Society for Horticultural Science, discussed the publication of results of research. "In presenting the results of our work," he said, "we must first consider who our reader or audience is to be. And second, how shall we approach those readers or that audience? Do we write in a manner to best insure that a large number of people who should know our results will understand us completely and with the least effort on their part, or do we set our style for a few critics whom we want to impress? Is it beneath the dignity of a highly trained and competent scientist to write simply so that many men of less training and experience than he can easily grasp his views, and benefit from his accomplishments?....It seems too bad that many extremely useful and widely applicable findings are presented in such a manner that they actually reach only a fraction of the people who need to use those results....We are being unwise if we use obscure or technical terms where common ones will serve as well or better; if we omit simple, brief explanations that reasonably could be included; if we write for an exclusive group of specialists when the same material can be presented in such a manner as to be readily used by a much larger number of workers who need it. There is no merit in making a reader or listener work any harder than absolutely necessary in order to understand us. The simpler we can make our reports, the more widely they will be understood and the more useful they will be..."

Chronica Botanica Chronica Botanica, the international botanical journal published under the editorship of Dr. Frans Verdoorn, is to appear weekly from January 1940. This journal is unique among scientific journals, and contains digests, correspondence, quotations, comments on international affairs, news of institutions, experiment stations, gardens, societies, etc., personal notes and news, reviews, etc. The annual subscription will be 15 guilders, including postage. Further information can be obtained from Chronica Botanica, P.O. Box 8, Leyden, Holland. (Nature, London, December 30.)

Pulpwood Conservation Southern pulp mills were urged recently by a representative of the United States Forest Service to tighten self-imposed timber cutting restrictions, says an Associated Press report. Speaking to the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association, Charles F. Evans, assistant United States regional forester, suggested raising the "floor-level" which the association has set for maximum cutting. In place of "seed tree forestry" (leaving four or five seed trees to the acre to provide future growth), he suggested development of "selective cutting," leaving a growing stock that would enable the land to be cut again within 10 years. The association was formed to provide self-regulation for an industry that in the last five years has added \$200,000,000 to an already multimillion-dollar southern mill investment. (PPS 83.)

Floating Weather Stations Two floating Weather Bureau stations on Coast Guard cutters in mid-Atlantic have been authorized by President Roosevelt, says a joint announcement by the Treasury Department and the Department of Agriculture. Two Coast Guard vessels will take their positions at one-third and two-thirds of the distance between Bermuda and the Azores. Each cutter will carry its usual complement of about 125 officers and men, plus three Weather Bureau men. Each ship will be relieved by other cutters at four-week intervals. Every six hours of the 24-hour day, beginning at about 3:30 a.m., the bureau men will radio weather information to the Coast Guard station at Fort Hunt, Virginia. From there it will come by teletype to the Weather Bureau office in Washington. These observations will be of great value to the Weather Bureau in making its four daily "maps", especially along the Atlantic coast. Since last fall, when war began and ships of nearly every European nation ceased sending weather information, the Bureau has been seriously handicapped in making forecasts of value to ocean commerce, and especially to trans-Atlantic planes.

December Exports The Commerce Department has reported that exports of the United States had virtually reached 1929 levels since the European War. In December, a department analysis said, exports of \$368,000,000 exceeded imports by \$121,000,000, the largest margin in a decade. The volume of exports was said to be equal to 1929 levels. (Press.)

Milk for Calves "The question is sometimes raised as to whether or not pasteurization entails any considerable sacrifice of some of the important nutritive properties of milk," says an editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association (January 27). "A review by H. D. Kay presents some observations on this aspect of pasteurization. Recent well controlled investigations carried out by different workers on the comparative nutritive value of raw milk and pasteurized milk when fed to calves have shown that little difference exists between the two types of milk. In these studies not only rate of growth, physical condition and bodily measurements but also blood composition and, in some cases, tuberculin tests were used as criteria of comparison. The results of such investigations have been succinctly summed up by S. Bartlett, who concluded that raw milk has for calves a nutritive value almost identical with the value of pasteurized milk and that, if there is any difference in favor of raw milk, it is so small that it is readily masked by small variations in the experimental conditions. On the other hand, this investigator observed that a considerable risk of spreading tuberculosis among calves is incurred if they are given commercial raw milk...."

Phone Voice Telephone companies in a number of cities have
Forecasts installed a voice recording and reproducing machine
Weather which repeats the current weather forecast about every
 30 seconds. The forecast is furnished by the local
 office of the Weather Bureau. To date the mechanical "voice" is at
work in New York City, Chicago, and Newark, N.J. Service is expected
to begin in Baltimore about March 1 and in Detroit the first of April.
When the service first started in New York, provision was made for a
maximum of 30,000 calls a day. This was exceeded the first day by
8,000. On the fourth day 58,000 calls were recorded. Provision is
now made for 100,000 calls a day. In Chicago, the original estimate
of daily calls was 6,000, but the first day 12,000 calls were register-
ed between 6 a.m., and 6 p.m. Unusual weather conditions send the
number up sharply. Shortly after the service began in New York in
April, a sudden snow flurry brought 3,600 calls in an hour. A tempo-
rary change to clearing, during a period of rain and fog, registered
4,200 calls in an hour. Previously, the New York office was unable to
handle much over 500 calls a day and as many as 10,000 persons had
called and received a "busy" signal. But in all cities there are still
those who like to call the Weather Bureau and "talk about the weather".

Publication Turf Culture is a new monthly periodical published
on Turf by the U. S. Golf Association Green Section "in the
 interest of better turf for golf courses, lawns, parks,
recreation fields and cemeteries." The Department Library recently re-
cently received the December issue.

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 7, 1940

STAMPS FOR COTTON GOODS

The system by which surplus food commodities have been distributed to persons on direct relief will soon be extended to cover cotton goods, Secretary Wallace revealed yesterday. As has been the case with the surplus food commodities, those on direct relief in the selected cities will receive stamps entitling them to purchase cotton goods in any retail establishment, provided that the goods are made in this country or of cotton grown in this country.

A family of two persons, for example, will be entitled to purchase, every three months, not more than \$6 worth of stamps for cotton goods. They would pay \$3 for these stamps. Half the stamps would be green and would represent, presumably, the usual amount of cotton goods purchased by such a family on relief. The other half would be brown and would, in effect, enable the family to buy twice as much cotton goods for the same expenditure of cash. (New York Times.)

1940 FARM FOREST PLAN

The first project in 1940 under the Department's new farm forestry program was announced today by Secretary Wallace. Woodland improvement work will begin immediately, Mr. Wallace said, in the Thomas Jefferson Soil Conservation District of Albermarle, Louisa and Goochland Counties in central Virginia. Farmers taking part in the new program will receive assistance in working out management plans and cutting schedules for their woodland areas and in finding new markets for their timber products. Authorized by the Norris-Doxey act, the farm forestry program is carried on cooperatively by state and federal agencies. Federal funds made available for the program will be matched by contributions--either in money or facilities--from state and local governments and from participating farmers.

NEWSPRINT FROM PINE

Newsprint made in the South, talked of for decades and used experimentally for years, came of age as "regular run" material for two large southern newspapers yesterday, says a Little Rock (Ark.) report by the Associated Press, while still more papers awaited first shipments of the pine-base product from Texas. The morning Shreveport (La.) Times and the afternoon Little Rock Democrat used paper from the recently completed Lufkin, Texas, plant for all the day's editions and reported that it met every expectation.

Safety in "In the American markets the dangers lurking in
Canned Meat canned meats are negligible," says the Journal of the
 American Veterinary Medical Association (February).

"Toxic accidents are quite rare, in fact, so rare that consumer confidence in canned meat is quite universal, thanks to the supervision of the federal veterinary service. This, however, does not mean that the canning of meats is not a precarious undertaking. Obviously, an endless list of tragedies would result from the slightest negligence among the canners of meats. Meat poisonings would be numerous and therefore destructive to their enterprise....The veterinary service of the United States is de facto the salvation of one of our most important industries -- canning of meats -- as well as the guardian of its millions of patrons -- the consuming public. We are apt to think of the federal veterinary service and its ramification in the states as a unit engaged in preserving the health and sufficiency of animals, unaware of such little-known work as maintaining people's confidence in the canned meat they buy at the grocery."

Artificial The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical As-
Breeding sociation (February) which conducted a survey on artifi-
Units cial insemination of livestock, reports that there are
 five units operating in New Jersey, four in New York,
two each in Connecticut and Wisconsin, and one each in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Montana, California, Ohio and Tennessee. "In addition to these," says the journal, "North Dakota, Texas, Indiana, Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Mississippi have units in the process of organization. All of the going artificial insemination units appear to be well organized. Each unit operates under a constitution and by-laws, and it might be mentioned here that a model document for artificial insemination units has been prepared jointly by the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, the Bureau of Dairy Industry and the Farm Security Administration.

"In general, the extension dairymen and veterinarians who furnished the information for this report stated that the members are well satisfied with the results, and that the number of new units being established speaks for the success of the idea. However, a number of men reported that, in their opinion, artificial insemination has been overexploited in the lay press and that, consequently, many farmers expect the impossible. Some farmers have been led to believe that artificial insemination is a panacea for practically all breeding disturbances. This, certainly, is not the case and, to prevent such misunderstandings, it is advisable for veterinarians and others engaging in this work to explain to the unit members, while the unit is still in the process of organization, the problems involved and the degree of success that may be anticipated."

Eastward
Grain Rates An unusual suit has been started by western grain exchanges to force the Interstate Commerce Commission to recognize the necessity for reduction in through rates on grain and grain products to eastern markets, says a Minneapolis report in the Northwestern Miller (January 31). Milling in transit at terminals is one of the points involved. Wheat can be shipped from Kansas City to Chicago on a through rate of 16c. It can be stopped at country points, milled in transit, and shipped to Chicago for 27c. At terminal markets, however, the product moves on a proportional rate, penalizing the mills at terminals as much as 13@14c per 100 lbs. Millers at western terminal points feel there should be more flexibility in rate making, to offset local conditions in times of crop shortages. Participating in the suit are the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, through the Minneapolis Traffic Association, the Kansas City Board of Trade, Omaha Grain Exchange and the St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

Planning in.
Government Plan Age for February discusses "Planning Staffs in a Democratic Government," saying in one paragraph: "Planning in a democracy for the problems of democracy should flow from 'the ground up.' To achieve this end the national planning structure should be based, first, on decentralized regional, state and local staffs, and finally, on citizen participation in dealing with national problems where they strike home. In this connection the Department of Agriculture, through its county land-use agricultural committees, has initiated a method of farmer participation in planning its programs, which is a most significant development in democratic planning...."

Trade Pact
Program "One aspect of the trade-agreement program that has not received its due attention is its value as a check to the spread of barter and similar pacts in Latin America," says an editorial in the New York Times (February 5). "Such pacts are essentially bilateral, and because they are bilateral they tend to be exclusive and to shut out other countries. Secretary Hull's program is not exclusive but on the contrary, seeks to be universal through the most-favored-nation clause and stimulates rather than discourages the trilateral and multilateral trade which is indispensable to healthy international commerce. Willingness on the part of the United States to grant the concessions necessary to extend the program to the rest of Latin America would be no mere act of generosity on the part of this country but would do much to protect our own markets in that area by warding off the threat of an extension of barter and similar agreements now and after the war. Thus, even were no actual increase in American exports brought about, the added protection against their being cut into by foreign competitors would be a benefit by no means to be minimized."

Loans for Farm Youth Bank of America offers a noteworthy example of what can be done to cultivate the most important agriculture "resource" of the future -- rural youth. It has taken the initiative in providing a practical, simplified loan service to members of 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America Chapters who need financial assistance in carrying out their projects. For years boys and girls in many parts of California have been given a helping hand by local branches with loans for group projects. Results have been so fruitful and the activity so highly commended by teachers and club leaders that individual junior farmer loans have been made part of the bank's statewide lending program.

Here are the few simple rules: 1. The borrower must be recommended by his club leader or agricultural teacher, and parents. 2. Projects are to be carried on under the supervision of the club leader or agricultural teacher. 3. Loans not to exceed \$40 will be made without endorsement of parents and without chattel mortgage. Above this amount the guarantee of parents is required. 4. The loan application must describe the project fully and indicate if it can be carried out profitably. (Banking, February.)

Barriers to Farm Trade The 1939 sessions of the State legislatures defeated approximately 60 bills which would have erected new interstate trade barriers to the sale of farm products, according to Dr. Frederick V. Waugh of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and a member of the recently formed Inter-departmental Committee on Interstate Trade Barriers. Doctor Waugh states that so far little progress has been made in removing existing barriers. "The most hopeful approach seems to be through joint efforts of Federal and State officials to work out cooperative solutions to those problems of marketing," he states.

Committee on Rural Education A Committee on Rural Education with offices in Chicago, has recently been appointed by the American Country Life Association. Miss Inan E. Schatzmann of Iowa background, formerly educational investigator for the International Bureau of Education and research assistant for the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, has been appointed Executive Secretary. The committee is endeavoring to discover the best practices of rural education both in this country and abroad. These materials will be assembled and disseminated to all individuals and agencies interested. The committee is also encouraging the organization of regional, state and local commissions or councils on rural education, and is desirous of cooperating with other agencies in promoting conferences, institutes and demonstrations in this field. It is attempting to secure funds for scholarships and the advanced training of superior young people who will promise to make rural education their life work. For the present the committee is being supported by a grant from the Farm Foundation of Chicago. (Rural America, January.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 28

Section 1

February 8, 1940

FARM CO-OP REFINERIES

A \$750,000 complete cooperative refinery at Philipsburg, Kansas, will soon be turned over to the Consumers Refinery Association, a subsidiary of Consumers Cooperative Association, North Kansas City, reports Business Week. Financed largely by farm co-ops in ten Middle Western States, the refinery will produce 88,000 gallons of refined fuels every twenty-four hours. Another co-op refinery will soon be built by the Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association. This association now supplies practically 100 percent of the local co-ops in the state with petroleum products.

PAN-AMERICAN BANK PLAN

Plans for an inter-American bank to implement economic cooperation in the Western Hemisphere were approved yesterday by the Inter-American Economic and Financial Advisory Committee, which was appointed by the Panama Conference of Foreign Ministers of American States. The bank will be capitalized at \$100,000,000 and will have headquarters in Washington or New York. It will not become operative, however, until at least five governments subscribing as much as 145 shares of stock ratify the convention for its establishment. The governments will be asked to appoint delegates to sign the convention establishing the bank on April 14. (New York Times.)

LEGISLATION FOR APPEALS

The House Rules Committee yesterday approved a sweeping bill which, sponsors said, would curb the power of Federal boards and agencies. The measure, scheduled to go to the House floor for consideration, would provide individuals with an increased opportunity to appeal from rules, regulations, orders and decisions of the agencies. Introduced by Representative Francis E. Walter of Pennsylvania, the bill is similar to one which the Senate passed last session but voted to reconsider. (A.P.).

INDUSTRIAL BULLETIN

The Federal Reserve Board said yesterday that American industry was producing more goods, but employing 100,000,000 fewer persons than in 1929. In its monthly bulletin, the board estimated the seasonally adjusted index of industrial production for January at 120, the highest for any January on record. However, this figure represented a decline of 8 from December, due to an unseasonal decline in steel, textile and mineral production. (Press.)

Castor Plant "Drying oils for paint and varnish manufacture
Utilization grow in interest," says an editorial in Industrial
 Engineering and Chemistry (February). "While lin-
seed oil is still the most important from the standpoint of quantity
used, the world situation has made important several other sources,
the most recent of which is the castor bean.....principally imported
from Brazil to the extent of 175,000,000 pounds annually. The price
has recently advanced from \$45 to \$107 a ton and experiments for
growing the crop here are well under way, one company reporting that
1000 acres have already been grown for experimental purposes....The
castor plant is one of those interesting specimens that have a multi-
plicity of uses. The stalks contain about 50 percent cellulose of
high grade. The fiber is short and reports say that when blended
with the long fiber from slash pine an exceptional grade of paper can
be made. The leaves of the plant when powdered produce an insecti-
cide which has been extensively tried, especially in citrus groves,
and found effective in repelling aphids, mosquitoes, white flies,
and rust mites....However promising the castor plant may look, it must
be remembered that the present situation is abnormal. There is no
assurance that those who now use dehydrated castor oil in the manufacture
of paints and varnishes may not turn from the product that has helped
them back to tung oil if, as, and when that vehicle again becomes avail-
able in quantity at the old price...."

Research The du Pont Agricultural News Letter (Jan.-Feb.)
in Farm contains a statement made recently by L. F. Livingston,
Chemurgy manager of the agricultural extension division, before
 a subcommittee on farm chemurgy of the Agricultural
Study Committee of the House in Washington. The statement says in
part: "The chemical industry, as a whole, spends 2 percent of its
gross revenue on research. All manufacturing industry spends about
1/2 of 1 percent of its gross revenue on research. Agriculture, in-
cluding all funds spent by the Federal Government, and all funds spent
by the State Experiment Stations, including the money going into the
four regional research laboratories, and including the small amount of
work being done by groups interested in agricultural development, makes
up a fund spent on research in agriculture, which amounts to only 1/7
of 1 percent of the value of agricultural products in the United States.
In other words, to put agriculture on a par with manufacturing indus-
try as far as research goes, 3-1/2 times as much money should be spent
on research work along agricultural lines.

"One of the wisest moves, in my opinion, that has been made for
a long time was the development of the four regional laboratories to
work on the industrial uses of surplus agricultural crops. This type
of work should have your continued and hearty support. May I caution

you, however, not to expect results too soon. The record of the du Pont Company may be of interest. Our experience of nearly 40 years with organized research shows that from 6 to 10 years on an average is required from the time a research project is started in the laboratory until a product is put on the market. The very fact that research work requires a long time to produce results is one of the most important reasons why it is so difficult to obtain adequate funds for this type of work, and because the best and the most fundamental research work is not spectacular, it is the easiest to abolish when those in charge are required to pare expenses.... Adequate continued research funds along the lines of industrial use of agricultural products, not limited to surplus products alone, but applying to anything that is grown on the farm, or may be grown on the farm, will have over a period of time more lasting benefit to agriculture than anything with which we are now familiar."

1939 Forest Fire Report

During 1939 fires on National Forests cost the lives of 16 fire fighters and burned over 357,286 acres out of 206,000,000 acres under Forest Service protection, according to a preliminary report by the Service. Forest officers fought 15,725 fires during the year. Losses, were held, however, to less than two-tenths of one percent or one acre for every 575 acres guarded. Estimated damage to commercial timber and improvements was \$1,431,845. Forest Service officials said that the much greater losses in watershed protection and potential timber production cannot be estimated in money.

The report said that in five of the ten regions into which the United States is divided for administering National Forests, weather factors such as prolonged dry spells, severe lightning storms, low rainfall or light winter snows caused abnormally hazardous fire seasons. However, only 160 of the 1939 fires, or about one percent, burned over more than 300 acres. The 15,725 fires reported was the largest in several years, there having been 13,404 in 1938 and a yearly average of 12,004 for the years 1934 to 1938 inclusive.

N. Y. Produce Terminal

A modern terminal for the handling of fresh fruits and vegetables in New York City would save several millions of dollars annually in handling costs, according to Wendell Calhoun, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, writing in Agricultural Situation. He asserts that hauling and portage within the antiquated Washington Market costs more than \$5,000,000 yearly. This market is located on some of the most expensive land in the metropolis. It handles about three-fourths of all city produce receipts. Produce arrives in New York at the rate of one carload a minute for the daylight time of every working day in the year. Thus 212,000 carloads were received last year. Nearly one-eighth of the entire commercial production of fresh fruits and vegetables is sold in one market. (Food Field Reporter, February 5.)

Senate Began debate on H. R. 7922, independent offices
Feb. 6 appropriation bill. Agreed to a committee amendment
providing \$710,000 for National Resources Planning
Board. Mr. Taft stated he understands an appropriation for Office
of Government Reports is to be provided in the relief bill. The
committee reduced the item for Civil Service Commission by \$200,000.
Chairman Glass said: "The Committee on Appropriations made a point
of not voting for any increased personnel for any Government agency
which appeared before it."

Both Houses received the conference report on H.R. 7805, supple-
mental defense appropriation bill, and the report was agreed to with-
out debate in the Senate. The conferees agreed to the Senate amend-
ment to this bill making \$11,000,000 of the 1940 parity-payments ap-
propriation available for expenditure in the same manner as the 1939
appropriation.

H. R. 8202, Agricultural appropriation bill was referred to the
Senate Committee on Appropriations.

House Began general debate on State, Justice, Commerce
Feb. 6 appropriation bill, H. R. 8319, which was reported
from the Committee on Appropriations (H. Rept. 1575).
Mr. Caldwell stated that the committee has reduced the trade-agree-
ments item from \$225,000 to \$175,000, "the purpose of the reduction
being to eliminate all funds....for the purpose of making new re-
ciprocal trade agreements."

Mr. Nelson claimed that sufficient debate on the agricultural
appropriation bill, H. R. 8202, was not allowed, and Messrs. Cannon
of Mo., Lambertson, and Hawks disagreed.

Received from the President supplemental estimates for Civil
Service Commission of \$425,000 (H. Doc. 626); to Com. on Appropria-
tions.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Spot News on The unusual cold weather which damaged vegetable
Truck Crops crops in southern areas provided a practical test for
the up-to-the-minute truck crop news program inaugurated
January 1 by the Division of Agricultural Statistics and the Fruit and
Vegetable Division. Releases have been issued on current conditions.
Field and terminal market offices of the news service report that the
prompt release of freeze damage information is very much commended
throughout the industry. Some offices report that they have almost
been swamped by requests for timely news. In addition to answering
telephone inquiries, the releases are included in mimeographed reports
mailed direct to growers and dealers. The news is further disseminated
by the radio and by the press. (A.M.S. News, February 1.)

DAILY DIGEST

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WEATHER IN JANUARY The month just passed was the coldest January on record for nine states, Weather Bureau officials said yesterday, on the basis of reports from practically all of the bureau's stations. J. B. Kincer, of the bureau, in a summary of last month's cold, listed South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Missouri and Kansas as the states where average January temperatures were the lowest ever recorded. In addition, the average temperature for the following states approximately equaled the previous low recorded: Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida, Kentucky and Oklahoma.

In the states in which previous records for cold weather were broken, the temperature averaged from 2° to 4° lower than for any previous January since state records have been tabulated by the bureau. The outstanding feature of the January cold was its persistence through the month, rather than extremely low temperatures on any particular day. The lowest reported for January of this year in Southern States were: Virginia, -20°; North Carolina, -18°; South Carolina, -13°; Georgia, -16°; Alabama, -16°; Mississippi, -14°; Louisiana, -8°; Texas, -8°; Arkansas, -14°; and Florida, 10° above zero. The lowest recorded at Washington, D.C., was 7° above zero.

TRADE PACT LEGISLATION The Administration's resolution extending the reciprocal trade agreements act for three years after June 12 was favorably reported to the House yesterday by its Ways and Means Committee. Fourteen Democrats voted for the favorable report, with one Democrat, Representative Disney of Oklahoma, voting present. All ten Republican members voted against a favorable report. The measure will reach the floor of the House, under present plans, during the week of February 19. Written reports of the majority and minority factions of the committee will be filed and printed in the meantime. (New York Times.)

4-H CAMP The annual 4-H Club Camp will be held this year in Washington June 12 to 19, the Extension Service announced yesterday. As in recent years, the tents will be pitched along the Tidal Basin, near the Washington Monument. More than one and a quarter million boys and girls belong to the organization.

American
Farmers

Fortune (February) celebrates its tenth anniversary with articles on "The United States of America." The article, "The 32,000,000 Farmers," says in part: "Infinite variety, mechanization, diversification, new and better crops, and new management -- these are five aspects of the contemporary American farm. They are held together in one pattern through the farmer's character -- the blend of individualism and cooperation, which, though a general trait of the American people, is nowhere more clearly defined than on the farm. The farmer's individualism is not necessarily reasoned or articulate; it is rather instinctive, and it asserts itself chiefly in opposition. When, at the beginning of the soil-conservation program, some of the local administrators tried to enforce a ready-made formula upon the farmer, he balked. But since the farmer also loves to cooperate, he eagerly joined as soon as the soil conservationists asked him to cooperate, although the enterprise seemed at first to offer nothing but sacrifices. It is perhaps the most important feature of the New Deal farm program, and the greatest service that the Department of Agriculture could have rendered to American democracy, that these basic characteristics were recognized and made use of.

"There is a lot of competition between individual farmers as to who grows the better crop and few of them are above gloating over the minor misfortunes of a neighbor or their own good luck. But farmers do not regard each other as competitors in the market; and when real disasters strike, the neighborhood turns out to help, often making great sacrifices. In the past this instinct of mutual help found expression in corn-husking parties, quilting bees, and community threshings. Today it shows in the readiness with which everybody hands on a new and better crop variety or a new and better technique. This unstinting pooling of brains and experience toward the common goal of better and successful farming gives the farmer a head start over the urban industrialist in adapting himself to modern conditions...."

Control of
Codling Moth

In American Fruit Grower (February) Frank T. Street reports that in 1939, 125 acres of apple orchard on the Kentucky Cardinal Farms, near Henderson, were sprayed for codling moth with a tank-mix nicotine-bentonite schedule worked out by L. F. Steiner, R. F. Sazama and J. E. Fehey of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, at the Vincennes, Ind., laboratory. "We came through the season," he says, "with better than 90 percent worm-free fruit and very few stings. In our lead blocks, on the other hand, we lost fully 50 percent of the apples from worm entrances and had nine times as many stings on the fruit...."

Sirup From Sweet Potato Sirup from sweet potato starch is the subject of an article by Lawrence E. Stout, of Washington University, in Manufacturers Record (February). Describing studies in the university laboratory on making the sirup, he says in one paragraph: "Much work still remains to be done on this new product. In the first place, no attempt is made to utilize the natural sugars in the sweet potato. These are wasted; the starch is the starting raw material. This opens up a new field of investigation for the agriculturalist, to grow potatoes which (1) yield a larger quantity of starch per acre and (2) produce smaller quantities of undesirable protein materials which lead to purification troubles. The sirups produced compare very favorably with corn sirups for table use (when blended with sucrose sirup and a little vanilla or other flavoring). However, much remains to be done on the comparative usage of the two sirups in such fields as candy manufacture or canning. No attempt has been made to produce a crystalline sugar from the reaction mixture. These three points merely raise a few of the questions which invite further investigation by the chemical engineer...."

Wheat Income Stability Leroy K. Smith, manager of the Crop Insurance Corporation, speaking at the Farm and Home Hour at Kansas State College this week, said in part: "Crop insurance must be considered from a long-range viewpoint. One of the greatest and most needless dangers to the plan is that growers or the public will take the short-range viewpoint and try to measure the success of the program from a year-to-year profit-and-loss standpoint. Crop insurance is not designed to make a profit, nor to sustain a loss. It is designed to stabilize wheat production for the insured grower, and over a representative period of years premiums paid in by farmers and indemnities paid out should approximately balance. If our rates are accurate, a surplus should accumulate in good years. That would not be a profit, however, because we know that over a long-time average such surplus wheat will be needed to make up for future crop losses. In poor years indemnities paid out should exceed the premiums that have been paid in on that crop.

"The consistency of long-time averages is such that we firmly believe accurate rates will bring about a balance over a representative period. By 'representative period' I do not mean one or two years -- but a period of 10 or more years, long enough to allow big crops and short crops to average out. It is possible, of course, that years or a series of years of heavy crop losses may occur before a surplus of premiums has accumulated under the crop insurance plan. Congress thought of that in forming the program and provided capital to sustain the program in such years."

Senate Continued debate on H. R. 7922, independent
Feb. 7 offices appropriation bill. Rejected the committee
amendment striking out the provision which prohibits
the purchase of oleomargarine by the Veterans' Administration ex-
cept for cooking purposes.

Committee on Foreign Relations reported with amendment S. 3069,
to provide for certain loans to Finland by the R. F. C. (S. Rept. 1185).

House Continued debate on H. R. 8319, State, Justice,
Feb. 7 and Commerce appropriation bill. Rejected an amend-
ment to strike out \$2,166,000 for the housing census.
This bill contains an item of \$35,000 for the Office of Foreign Agri-
cultural Relations for cooperation with American Republics. The com-
mittee report on this bill requests officials to attempt to hold
automobile repairs to a lower figure.

Passed H. R. 4282, to amend the act providing for administration
and maintenance of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Va. and N. C. This bill
provides for connection with the parkway of such roads and trails as
are necessary for administration of adjacent national forests.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Textile Use Consumption of the major textile fibers, cotton,
Sets Record rayon, wool, silk and linen in the United States last
year totaled 4,558,300,000 pounds in 1939, an increase
of 27 percent over 1938 and 3 percent above the record year of 1937,
the Rayon Organon, published by the Textile Economics Bureau, Inc.,
reported recently. All fibers except silk made appreciable gains
for the year. The sharpest gain was that for rayon yarn and staple
fiber, which was up 41 percent. (Press.)

Uses for A new patent recently issued by the U. S. Patent
Nylon Office reveals that the new nylon material -- made
basically from coal and air and water -- can be used
to coat paper, leather, cloth and wire mesh to produce oilproof
paper containers, patent leather, long-wearing, flexible, water-
proof clothing and a sturdy, transparent window glass. The patent,
assigned to du Pont, describes how to use the chemical material
nylon in its new coating form. The materials are experimental and
not on a commercial scale. (Science Service.)

Record The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has esti-
Tobacco mated that the high record 1939 crop of 1,770,000,000
pounds of tobacco would bring growers approximately
\$270,000,000. The average price for the 1939 crop was 15.3 cents
a pound, the bureau said, compared with 19.7 cents in 1938. Income
from tobacco was the same in both years, although the 1938 crop was
400,000,000 pounds less. (United Press.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 12, 1940

TRADE WITH THE SOVIET

"A constantly rising trend in Russian imports from the United States despite virtual closing of the Atlantic shipping lanes is indicated in an analysis of authoritative trade figures," says C. W. Hurd in the New York Times. "Exports from the United States to the Soviet in December totaled approximately \$15,500,000, or more than one-fourth of the total for the calendar year of 1939. The December exports, in fact, may be shown as actually a little greater when the Department of Commerce compiles its final figures for routine issuance this week.

"At the same time imports of merchandise from the Soviet Union have gone close to the 'ceiling' of the last few years, in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000, making an unfavorable balance of trade, from the Russian standpoint, which apparently is compensated for by the regular sale of gold mined in Russia at the price of \$35 an ounce maintained by this government..."

U.S. TOBACCO FOR BRITAIN

Reports reaching the Department of Commerce from Britain indicate that the ban on British imports of American tobacco imposed at the beginning of the year probably will soon be lifted, Secretary Hopkins said yesterday. The heavy import duties on tobacco have constituted a very important part of the British Government's revenue. Since the gradual imposition of restrictions on American tobacco, this has been dwindling quickly. (New York Times.)

SYNTHETIC RUBBER

A special report in the New York Times says the rights to a new process for the manufacture in the United States of rubber on a commercial scale have been acquired by Standard Oil of New Jersey. The process was developed by the oil company and the German chemical company, I. G. Farbenindustrie. As a beginning, Standard of New Jersey will construct at one of its refineries a plant capable of producing 2,000 tons of synthetic rubber annually. The plant will probably be in operation this year. The cost of making the synthetic product will compare favorably with what the rubber-manufacturing companies now are paying for crude rubber. With a gradual expansion of facilities, it is said, the synthetic product can be manufactured at slightly less than 20 cents a pound.

Refrigerator Ice and Refrigeration (February) describes a
Car Test Run refrigerator car test conducted by the California
 Fruit Growers Exchange and two railroads, between
California and New York. "The refrigerator car was of the same
outside measurements as the average standard 41-footer," it says,
"but with new ice bunker and air flue arrangements which accommo-
date a load of nearly twice the number of boxes of citrus fruit...
Structural innovations of the test car are the elimination of end
bunkers in favor of shallow overhead bunkers, and the introduction
of air ducts in the side walls of the car for gravity circulation
of the air to the bottom of the load. Elimination of the two large
ice bunkers....resulted in a load of 840 boxes of oranges as compared
with the usual 462 boxes in a standard end bunker car....The test
revealed a variance of only nine degrees in temperature between the
top and bottom of the load at any point in the car; a variance of not
more than three degrees top temperature at any one point; similar
variance in bottom temperatures; and middle-load temperatures ranging
from 42 to 44° F....."

Farm Family An Associated Press report from Twin Falls says
Labor Camp that Idaho's first farm labor camp was turned over
 recently to the Farm Security Administration. The
camp is designed to provide minimum housing, sanitary and social
facilities for part of the thousands of farm families following
seasonal crop harvests and to reestablish a limited number on the
land. Two mobile units, each with tent platforms and other facilities
for 200 families, will be set up this summer in areas with short
season harvests. "Camp facilities include 224 wooden shelters with
food closet and cooking stove base," said Walter A. Duffy, regional
FSA director. "There are 24 farm labor homes with two bedrooms, com-
bination living room and kitchen, simple plumbing, electric lights
and a small garden plot; a utility building with showers, toilets,
laundry trays and ironing boards; community center building for
church services, meetings, kindergarten and other recreational
activities; hot water pressure system, and modern garbage disposal
plant, and first aid, child clinic and isolation ward in charge of
a registered nurse. Twenty four additional homes will be constructed
this spring." (PPS 97.)

1939 Food A decrease of 28 percent in total food products
Exports exports from the United States from 1938 to 1939, with
 values declining from \$432,393,000 to \$312,323,000,
was chiefly caused by a consistent lack of foreign demand throughout
1939 for several important grains, and the more favorable prices
quoted on world markets by foreign exporters, the Foodstuffs Division
of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has reported. (Press.)

Senate Passed H. R. 7922, independent offices appropria-
Feb. 8 tion bill. An amendment to reduce the Tennessee Val-
ley Authority appropriation by \$1,000,000 was rejected.
An amendment to reduce this item by \$5,000,000 was rejected.

S. 915, to provide for more expeditious settlement of disputes with the U. S., was ordered to be printed as S. Doc. 145, with annotations.

House Agreed to the conference report on H. R. 7805,
Feb. 8 supplemental defense appropriation bill. This bill will now be sent to the President. This bill contains a provision making \$11,000,000 of the 1940 parity-payments appropriation available for expenditure in the same manner as the 1939 appropriation.

H. R. 8152, providing for procurements without advertising if the aggregate amount is less than \$100, was recommitted to Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments.

Agreed to a resolution providing for consideration of H. R. 960, Ramspeck bill to extend the classified civil service.

Passed H. R. 8319, State, Justice, and Commerce appropriation bill. Rejected a motion to recommit the bill with instructions to strike out the appropriation for the housing census.

Rejected two amendments to increase the appropriation for enforcement of the antitrust laws.

House Passed H. R. 960, Ramspeck bill to extend the
Feb. 9 classified civil service. Agreed to the Rees-Keller-Nichols amendment providing that no excepted employee may be covered into the classified civil service "if such person is from a State (or D.C.) whose quota is more than filled unless and Amendments until the quota of all States whose quota is unfilled has become filled."/
rejected: Providing for competitive examinations (same as H. R. 2700): limiting provisions of this bill to employees of permanent agencies authorized by act of Congress; limiting tenure to January 1, 1941, unless employee has been appointed by then through competitive examination; providing for competitive examinations but allowing 10 per cent preference to incumbents. Amendment withdrawn after discussion: Providing for a congressional committee to investigate administration of civil-service laws.

Following is a digest of this bill: Authorizes the President to cover into the classified civil service positions in any Government agency except positions in or connected with the W.P.A. To acquire such a status, incumbents must have served six months and must pass a noncompetitive examination. Authorizes the President to extend the Classification Act to positions (with exceptions not applying to this Department) not now subject to its provisions, and permits him to prescribe additional classification grades and establish schedules of differentials in compensation. The President is authorized to

exclude from these provisions positions on work financed jointly by the U. S. and a State, emergency or seasonal positions, positions filled locally on a fee, contract, or piecework basis, etc. The compensation of positions covered in this bill is required to be governed by the Classification Act except that if an employee is receiving a stipend in excess of the maximum rate prescribed he shall continue to receive it. Amends the Classification Act so as to establish boards of review in each department to consider, pass on, and readjust protested efficiency ratings.

Adjourned until Monday, February 12.

Senate Continued debate on S. 3069, to provide for loans
Feb. 9 to Finland by the R. F. C.

Recessed until Tuesday, February 13.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Ames Orchid Professor Oakes Ames, director of Harvard's
Herbarium botanical museum, has presented to the university his prize orchid herbarium of 57,000 specimens, one of the finest collections of its kind in the world. Besides the herbarium, containing specimens of almost all the 600-odd known genera of the orchid family, Professor Ames has given the university his library of more than 1,800 volumes and pamphlets about orchids, as well as \$68,000 to establish an endowed curatorship for the collection. (New York Times.)

Hospital President Roosevelt's proposal that the Government
Plan Backed build 50 hospitals in rural needy communities has received support from Dr. Nathan B. Van Etten, president-elect of the American Medical Association. Dr. Van Etten said that the plan "should have the hearty support of all physicians and public health workers." He added that the hospitals should be so planned as not to enter into "undue competition" with other hospitals. (A.P.)

Phenothiazine A substance that is toxic to insects and of low
Research toxicity to warm-blooded animals, including man, long has been the goal of Department scientists. Six years ago they found a promising substance in phenothiazine, which is prepared from diphenylamine, a coal tar derivative, and sulphur. The original research, by L. E. Smith in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, showed the chemical possesses value as an insect killer. This led to other important and practical uses for phenothiazine. In the opinion of Department scientists, it is one of the most versatile chemical substances brought to light in recent years. When manufacturers apply to the Secretary of Agriculture, phenothiazine will be released as a medicine for treating certain worm infestations of sheep, swine, and horses, which heretofore have resisted medication.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 31

Section 1

February 13, 1940

STATE TRADE BAR OPINION

Three Supreme Court justices advocated yesterday that the courts leave to Congress the question of "the constantly increasing barriers to trade among the states." Justices Black, Frankfurter and Douglas dissented from a majority opinion enjoining Arkansas from imposing a tax on gasoline (in excess of 20 gallons) carried in the fuel tanks of interstate buses if the gasoline were for use in other states.

Saying that Congress, as sole constitutional legislative repository of power over that commerce, had enacted no regulation prohibiting Arkansas from levying a tax, the dissenting justices said: "We would leave the questions raised by the Arkansas tax for consideration of Congress in a nation-wide survey of the constantly increasing barriers to trade among the states." Justice McReynolds delivered the majority opinion. He said the tax would be permissible if, "considering all the circumstances," it "reasonably can be regarded as proper compensation for using the roads." (A.P.)

FOREIGN TRADE PACTS

A Moscow cable to the New York Times says the Russo-German economic treaty was signed there yesterday. The document itself was not made public, but the communique states that the turnover for the current year will exceed that of any post-war year. The highest post-war year was 1931 when the turnover totaled more than 1,000,000,000 marks, of which two-thirds were Soviet imports from Germany. Under the present agreement Russia will supply mainly raw materials and Germany will supply manufactures.

An Associated Press report from London says Britain yesterday announced that a new trade accord with Turkey would go into effect February 19 in an effort to increase commerce between the two nations. Under the new pact, which is to run a year and subsequent one-year periods unless a signatory terminates it with at least a three-month notice, Britain will send airplanes, machinery, cotton and other war materials, and in return will get raw materials, including tobacco and dried fruit.

FEWER CIPHERS

In the Daily Digest for February 8, page 1, the last item should have read: "The Federal Reserve Board said American industry was employing 1,000,000 (not 100,000,000) fewer persons than in 1929 but producing more goods."

K.C. Market Terminal Kansas City, Kansas, which has just opened for business one of the largest wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in the country, brings the number of cities of over 5,000 population with municipal markets to about 175, the International City Managers' Association reports. The Kansas City food terminal occupies 62 acres on the raised levee where the Kaw and the Missouri Rivers meet. It was built by the municipality with financial aid from the Union Pacific Railroad and Federal works funds, and the Kansas State Highway Commission constructed a viaduct which eliminates grade crossings at the entrance to the market property. Planned to serve farmers and food wholesalers from ten to fifteen states in the area around Kansas City, the market contains 78 units in four main produce buildings. Each unit has an elevator, mezzanine office space and display and storage rooms. In addition, there is a five-story cold-storage warehouse, a filling station, a telegraph office, a bank, nearly 500 stalls for truck farmers and small growers, parking space for thousands of cars, and switch tracks to bring freight cars to the market door. The Kansas City market is administered by the city, through a market master appointed by the Mayor. The City Auditor will be in direct charge of its financial administration. Among cities which recently have constructed new markets, planned to meet changing conditions, are Memphis, Tenn., Minneapolis, Minn., Syracuse, N.Y., and Grand Rapids, Michigan. (The American City, February.)

Rancidity Prevention Numerous patents have been granted for the use of chemical substances as "stabilizers" or antioxidants, which are substances capable of retarding the development of rancidity in oils and fats. Some foods contain antioxidants. "They have been shown," states the Council on Foods of the American Medical Association, "to exist in a variety of vegetable foods. Recently, cereal flours have been suggested as antioxidants for foods which are prone to acquire unpleasant flavors. The value of cereal flours as antioxidants has been partially described in certain United States patents. Oat flour has found particular favor because of its low price and reported effectiveness in preventing the rancidity which is responsible for the disagreeable flavor. It has been used to provide protection for potato chips, peanuts, candy, coffee, various oils and other foods. Special preparations of oat flour are being marketed for application to food materials by (a) intimate mixing or fusion, as with lard, oleomargarine and peanut butter; (b) dusting or coating, as with potato chips or salted nuts, or (c) coating paper or other packaging material which comes into contact with foodstuffs such as butter, lard, bacon, coffee, and similar products." (Northwestern Miller, February 7.)

**Fur Farming
Industry**

"Fur farming is so well established that the 1940 Farm Census makes inquiry concerning farms raising silver foxes and mink as a commercial venture," says the Fur & Market Journal (February). "Fur farming has several things in its favor -- it does not compete with any other kind of farming; it uses land of relatively little value for crops; the cash returns are fairly liberal compared with the work involved; it calls for greatest activity in the winter months when other farm work is not pressing. On the other hand, it takes capital, hard work, vision, and the ability to meet many reverses, to put the project on a paying basis....Small producers supply more than half the skins marketed. It makes an attractive and profitable sideline to general farming, bringing in ready cash during an interval between crops. Fur farming has made a fixed place for itself as a branch of agriculture and should develop rapidly in the next decade or two as the various problems connected with it are solved by experience. Other important data on furs are being assembled by the Census Bureau as part of the Censuses of Business and Manufacturers now under way...."

**New Machine
for Chemical**

"California farmers are using carbon bisulfide in increasing quantities for control of rodents, noxious weeds and certain plant diseases," says Pacific Rural Press (January 27). "Until recently carbon bisulfide was applied by hand. The division of agricultural engineering of the University of California became interested in the problem and after considerable experimenting, Orval C. French of this department developed a special pump that was able to accurately meter small quantities of carbon bisulfide. Working in cooperation with a commercial concern, French rigged up this pump on a heavy duty field chisel cultivator with 1/4-inch tubes to discharge the carbon bisulfide under the ground as the chisel moved along....About six 50-gallon drums of carbon bisulfide will completely treat an acre. With this power applicator, treatment can be made at the rate of about one-half acre per hour."

**Foreclosures
Decrease**

Foreclosures completed on Federal land bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans dropped more than 50 percent during the last quarter of 1939, according to Governor A. G. Black of the Farm Credit Administration. Following a special study of conditions surrounding foreclosures which the land banks undertook early in September, the number decreased, Governor Black said, from 3,449 in the third quarter of 1939 to 1,580 in the fourth quarter.

Experiment Station Record "Behind the scene that the farmer views and behind the services that he enjoys are a good many enterprises that he knows little about," says an editorial in the Market Growers Journal (February 1).

"One of these is the Experiment Station Record which has just completed its fiftieth year. This monthly journal of about a hundred pages is edited and published by the United States Department of Agriculture and its pages are devoted primarily to references and abstracts of the many bulletins and other scientific papers that are published by government and state research workers. It enables investigators to know what has been done in a given field, so helping them to plan their own work more intelligently and to interpret the results more accurately. It is a great aid to teachers and extension workers in keeping up with the things that have been learned and that may be useful to the people they are serving. The Record is minutely indexed by authors and titles and subjects and the index is made cumulative every ten years. Thus its material is readily accessible and it is the key to a vast store of knowledge that has been built up throughout practically the whole life of the experiment stations."

Forest Council Under the sponsorship of the University of Pennsylvania, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, there has just been set up the Pennsylvania Community Forest Council. The council, headed by Professor Charles C. Rchlfing, chairman of the department of political science, represents the first attempt in this country to study forestry from the political science point of view. The council aims to interest local units of government in the proper management of community forests, which are defined as woodland tracts owned by a township, borough, city, county, or other local governmental unit, and used for the benefit of its citizens. The benefit may be social, economic or financial, with the forests managed for recreational or watershed purposes and perhaps "farmed" for regular timber crops at the same time. (New York Times.)

Verdoorn in U. S. Dr. Frans Verdoorn, formerly of Leyden, Holland, editor and general manager of *Chronica Botanica* and other international publications, has arrived in the United States, where he plans to continue his work. His library and collections have been transferred to this country. The International Addressbook of Plant Taxonomists has been completed and will be published shortly. Correspondence for the present should be addressed care of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass. (Science, Feb. 9.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 14, 1940

AAA PARITY PAYMENTS The Department of Agriculture will begin distributing \$225,000,000 in parity payments within a few weeks among producers of wheat, cotton, corn and rice who cooperate with its efforts to reduce surpluses and boost prices. This money, appropriated last year, will be divided among the crops as follows: cotton, \$96,000,000; corn, \$48,600,000; wheat, \$57,100,000; rice, \$300,000..

The parity payments will be apportioned at these rates: cotton, 1.55 cents a pound; corn, 5 cents a bushel; wheat, 10 cents a bushel; rice, 1.7 cents a hundredweight. The soil conservation rates have been set at: 1.6 cents a pound for cotton; 10 cents a bushel for corn; 9 cents a bushel for wheat; 6.5 cents a hundredweight for rice. The \$225,000,000 parity payments would supplement \$498,650,000 for soil conservation payments and \$47,975,000 for sugar payments recommended by President Roosevelt. (A.P.)

FUND FOR RESEARCH Dr. G. W. Carver, Negro scientist of Tuskegee Institute, yesterday donated \$33,000 in cash and government bonds to a foundation to perpetuate research in creative chemistry, says a United Press report. Through more than half a century of study and painstaking experimentation, Dr. Carver has developed more than 300 uses for the common peanut; 118 uses for the sweet potato and numerous methods of utilizing waste cotton products.

From the clays of Alabama he developed face powders, pigments, paints and stains; from peanuts he developed such by-products as condiments, plastics, paper, stains and insulating boards; from sweet potatoes, he made starch, tapioca, syrup, stains; and from cotton he developed paving blocks, insulating boards, cordage, paper and rugs.

EXPORTS INCREASE The \$100,000,000 increase in December 1939 over December 1938 of United States exports, including re-exports, together with the \$75,000,000 rise in imports, was widely distributed geographically, although in each case a significant part of the gain was attributable to increased trade with a few countries, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

In a supplemental analysis of the month's figures the department indicated that of the \$45,000,000 increase in exports to Europe in December, larger shipments to France accounted for \$25,500,000, while increased shipments to Spain added \$6,000,000 to the gain. Exports to Latin American countries, to Canada and Asia rose by \$24,000,000, \$15,000,000 and \$16,000,000, respectively, with larger shipments to almost all countries in the areas contributing, the department said. (Press.)

Cooperation
in Home
Economics

For more than four years home economists from the extension service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the home economics education service of the U. S. Office of Education have been meeting together about three times a year to discuss common problems and see what could be done to promote co-operation between the two services, especially in local programs. Both services are increasingly aware of the need of joint efforts to promote programs. Examples of these are now to be found in at least 36 states and represent considerable variety in the form of co-operation worked out, the agencies taking part, and the kind of activity included. A few typical and suggestive programs are described in a 28-page mimeographed report called "Illustrations of Cooperation in Home Economics Programs." They were assembled by home economics representatives of the Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and of the vocational education division, Office of Education, and are issued by the Federal Security Agency, U. S. Office of Education, as Miscellany 2220-Rev. (Journal of Home Economics, February.)

Electricity
for Farms

The Great Falls Tribune, in an editorial on electricity for farms, says: "The REA program stimulated rural electrification greatly after 1935, but it should be noted that electric utilities have been building up their rural services with equal rapidity. The tremendous interest in rural electric service since 1935 stimulated extension of utility lines. There has not been as much said about the utility companies' expansion programs, but they have had a large part in making electricity available to the American countryside.

"The REA has taken the lead in going into communities where the prospective load has not appealed to the power companies, but the chances are that electrification under the REA will make the utility corporations more inclined to undertake the development of the power demand in areas which they refused to enter in previous years. Whether public agencies or private utilities bring this boon to a farm community, however, it means a better standard of life for rural America."

Pectin from
Grapefruit

The Farm Security Administration has announced approval of a loan of \$500,000 to a cooperative composed of small citrus grower associations in the Rio Grande Valley for a new chemurgic industry -- the development of a plant to extract pectin from grapefruit peel and to produce metallic pectinate, says a report in the Dallas Morning News. Operation of the plant is expected to benefit more than 2,000 small citrus growers who belong to the member associations. These growers, many of them low-income producers, will be able to turn what is now a liability into an asset. At the present time they have to haul and bury grapefruit peels, left from the making of juice, in order not to attract fruit flies. Metallic pectinate is made by adding certain metals to the pectin. (PPS-136.)

Farm Placement Service "Among the various Federal agencies working for the betterment of agricultural workers is the Farm Placement Service, a section of the Bureau of Employment Security of the Social Security Board," says O. D. Hollenbeck, of the Service, in Extension Service Review (February). "The Farm Placement Service functions through local offices of the 48 State employment services. It has two principal objectives: First, to serve agricultural labor and farmers; and, second, to direct the migration of agricultural labor both within States and across State boundaries in such manner that surpluses and deficits of labor will be reduced to a minimum. In connection with migratory farm labor, the Farm Placement Service places particular emphasis on preventing migration where there is no definite information about employment.

"At the present time there are approximately 1,650 public employment offices strategically located in the various States; and to supplement these offices, during peak harvest seasons, many temporary offices are opened. Nine full-time farm placement supervisors have been appointed for work in 7 States which are primarily agricultural in character; and in 11 States, with a smaller amount of agricultural activity, 11 part-time farm placement supervisors perform necessary agricultural placement functions....The farm placement supervisors make it their business to know agricultural labor needs within their States through careful study of crop acreages and man-hours needed to cultivate and harvest crops. They cooperate closely with State extension service directors, county agents, farm organizations, and State departments of agriculture. In the 18 States where farm placement supervisors have been appointed, farm placements will approach the million mark for the year 1939...."

Insect Control Control of harmful insects through such diverse methods as introduction of parasites, infection with disease, spraying by autogiro, and development of new insecticides and fumigants is described in the annual report of Lee A. Strong, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. New colonies of Japanese beetle parasites were liberated in Maryland, Connecticut and New York. Millions of European cocoon parasites of the European spruce sawfly were liberated in the Northeast. Last year parasites of the asparagus beetle were shipped to this country for the first time. The parasites have been effective in France. The device of spreading disease fatal to insects is used in the fight on the Japanese beetle. During the year a method of holding disease-spreading material was developed at the Moorestown (N.J.) laboratory. Bodies of diseased larvae are ground and mixed with talc or chalk. The mixture is diluted with water and used as a spray or mixed with soil and broadcast.

The bureau's first autogiro for applying insecticides was used last June for spraying an area near Greenfield, Mass., infested with the gypsy moth. Experiments with methyl bromide as a fumigant to free nursery stock of the oriental fruit moth were continued with favorable results. New insecticides superior to pine tar oil for protecting

animals against screwworms were developed. Among these, diphenylamine appeared to be the most practical for general use. The bureau cited development of large-scale dusting equipment. One machine, developed by private interests, had an 80-foot boom, and could dust 250 acres a day.

"Ambulance"

for Stock

"Like many rural districts, ours is short on veterinarians, the nearest one being 26 miles away," says F. R. Cozzens in Farm and Ranch (February). "On several occasions, valuable animals have been lost while waiting for the veterinarian to arrive, and many times sickness among livestock was prolonged because medical aid was not available at the start. A number of our farmers own trucks, and at a community meeting it was agreed that they should do emergency duty when sickness or injury struck our livestock, provided the farmers without trucks furnish ropes, blocks, and labor necessary in conveying an animal to the veterinarian's location. The owner of the animal was to pay cost of gas and oil. Now, when sickness or injury strikes an animal, and there is likely to be delay in getting medical service, we contact the veterinarian by telephone and bring the case to his place of business....The cost is usually one-third to one-half less than would be required were the veterinarian to make a special trip to the farm. We securely tie and blind-fold a sick animal while on the truck, and in no case has there been any bad effects from a trip."

Trade Law Report

A digest of trade laws has been prepared by the WPA for the Commerce Department and the Interdepartmental Committee on Interstate Trade Barriers. Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia are the States reviewed in the report, which devotes 32 charts to 650 examples of laws which block the free flow of commerce between States. (Press.)

House Feb. 12

Messrs. Jones of Texas, Fulmer, and Hope were appointed House conferees on S. 1955, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to delegate certain regulatory functions, and to create the position of Second Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. (Senate conferees are: Messrs. Wheeler, Thomas of Okla., Schwellenbach, Norris and McNary.)

Received from Secretary of War a report on a preliminary examination and survey of Kings River and Tulare Lake, Calif., for flood control; to Com. on Flood Control. (H. Doc. 630.)

The Senate was not in session.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

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Section 1

February 15, 1940

FARM TENANT LEGISLATION

A bill intended to increase the scope of the Jones-Bankhead farm tenant act to include insurance of mortgages by the Secretary of Agriculture was ordered favorably reported to the House by its Agriculture Committee yesterday. A formal report will be filed with the House in the course of the next few days, committee officials said. A proposal of similar intent, but slightly different in machinery, was passed by the Senate last July. The House Agriculture Committee substituted yesterday its own project in the nature of an amendment to the Senate bill.

The new proposal would continue in effect the existing farm tenant law and add features to it. The bill would empower the Secretary of Agriculture to insure amortized mortgages, not to run more than 40 years or to bear interest at more than 3 percent, of farm tenants, farm laborers or sharecroppers wishing to acquire their own farms. The Secretary would collect the payments of principal, interest and insurance premiums from the mortgagor and pay to the mortgagee the principal and interest due him. (New York Times.)

CONGRESS BACKS TRADE PACTS

A report by the Ways and Means Committee, recommending that the reciprocal trade agreements act be extended for another three years, was filed yesterday. It praised the results of the twenty-two agreements thus far negotiated and predicted an influence toward world peace in the future if the policy was continued. The committee gave out a summary of the report, prepared by the State Department. Under present plans, the resolution extending the agreements will go to the floor of the House next week. (New York Times.)

COTTON EXPORTS, CONSUMPTION

Government reports disclosed yesterday that January was one of the best marketing months for domestic cotton in recent years. A total of 1,756,771 bales moved into export markets and into domestic consumption channels. This volume compared with 1,459,415 bales in December and 887,646 in January last year. Exports amounted to 1,026,628 bales, the largest monthly total since November 1935, while domestic consumption was 730,143 bales, the largest monthly total since March 1937, when 776,942 were consumed. Department of Agriculture officials said factors contributing to the increased foreign sales and domestic consumption included conditions arising out of the war, the government export subsidy and a shortage of reserve stocks of United States cotton in European countries at the beginning of the current season. (A.P.)

Corn Breeding Gordon Morrison, writing on corn breeding in
Improvement National Seedsman (February) says: "The development
 of crossed corn of such great merit as Golden Cross
Bantam is an accomplishment of incalculable practical value made
possible largely through research begun in 1905 by George Harrison
Shull on Long Island and continued by him there and at Princeton
University until 1916....The late great plant scientist, Dr. Edward
Murray East, saw the importance of Shull's experiments as few at
that time did, and his writings and the incitement of his own stu-
dents to work along the same lines undoubtedly had great influence
in keeping the idea of crossed corn alive until it was taken up by
Henry A. Wallace, by the United States Department of Agriculture and
by State Agricultural Experiment Stations....The production of seed
of crossed-corn for growers' use is a specialized job. It requires
the attention of trained seed breeders who understand the steps in-
volved and who can perform them at precisely the right time. Some
combinations of inbreds do not yield satisfactory hybrids. The se-
lected inbred lines must be kept absolutely pure year after year by
continued inbreeding in isolated plots. The crossed seed for sale
must be grown with the greatest of care. Rows of the inbred lines
which are grown under condition of controlled-field crossing to
yield crossed seed must be detasselled as frequently as necessary to
avoid inbreeding which would result from shedding of pollen from
tassels of the female parent on the 'female' row. In favorable grow-
ing weather it is necessary for the detasselling crews to go over
the field almost daily. At harvest time extreme care must be used to
avoid getting any of the ears from the inbred pollen parent into the
harvest of crossed corn destined for growers' use.

"Growers who are confused by the endless parade of corn hybrids
appearing annually should consult responsible seedsmen regarding
their requirements. Growers must renew their supply of crossed-corn
each year from a dependable source. The grower's crop from crossed-
corn is extremely uniform in appearance and excellent for the market.
However, since each plant of crossed corn in the farmer's field is
indeed a hybrid, seed should not be saved from such a field since it
would produce an extremely variable crop of considerably diminished
yield the following year."

Handicraft President Roosevelt has named an interdepartmental
Expansion committee to explore possibilities of expanding pro-
 duction and distribution of American handicraft work
with a view to promoting the native arts and providing supplemental
income to rural and urban populations. As head of the committee the
President named James W. Young, chief of the Bureau of Foreign and
Domestic Commerce. Other members include Rene d'Harmoncourt, general
manager of the Indian Arts Board of the Interior Department; Edward
Bruce, chief of the Treasury Department Fine Arts Division; Will Alex-
ander, Farm Security Administrator, and Mrs. Florence Kerr, WPA deputy
administrator. (New York Times.)

Parasite
Control

The retiring president of the American Society of Parasitologists, Horace W. Stunkard, in his address, printed in the February issue of the Journal of Parasitology, says in part: "The mention of hookworm disease, schistosomiasis, yellow fever, typhus, malaria, sleeping sickness and amebic dysentery suggests at once that the great scourges which have decimated populations are of parasitic origin. It is largely the prevalence of parasitic diseases which has prevented the exploitation of the tropics, the richest and most productive agricultural areas of the world. In addition to the losses incurred through illness and death of man and other animals, those inflicted on crop products are enormous. These data combine to make parasitology a subject of increasing practical importance throughout the world. An attempt to distinguish between human and veterinary parasitology is unwise, since in both, the principles and methods are identical. Indeed, most human parasites can be transmitted to other animals, and have been acquired from them. Much of our information concerning human parasites has resulted from study of the same or related species in non-human hosts. Advances in the control of yellow fever were held back for twenty-five years, until a susceptible host was found in the rhesus monkey.

"These facts show the danger, noted by Miss Cram and other workers, of introducing parasites of unknown pathological significance and unknown life histories, by the importation of animals for exhibition or laboratory purposes. The most acute practical problems are those of parasite control. Maurice C. Hall once proposed an examination for students of veterinary parasitology, which would provide them with sample life histories of all sorts of parasites and ask them to select in the life cycle the weak link at which one might drive, and propose a method of driving at it. He stated, 'This is precisely the end to which all work of the Zoological Division aims and the formulation of control measures ultimately falls to the lot of all its staff.' Obviously, to devise the most effective methods of control, it is essential that full information concerning the life cycle be available, and the extent to which parasite control has been developed in all parts of the world bears witness to the influence which life history studies have had in the advancement of parasitology...."

Newsprint
Process

C. P. Winslow, director of the United States Forest Products Laboratory, recently announced discovery of an improved method of producing newsprint paper in the South at lower cost, says an Associated Press report from Madison. "The Forest Products Laboratory," he said, "has recently made newsprint by mixing unbleached semi-chemical pulp from southern gum trees with groundwood pulp from southern pine." The gum semi-chemical pulp, he explained, replaced the more expensive sulphite pulp component of ordinary newsprint, or the semi-bleached kraft pulp now used with pine groundwood to produce southern newsprint. Mr. Winslow said that the new process was limited now to the experimental phase.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported
Feb. 13 favorably the following nominations: Claude R. Wickard,
of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture; Grover
Bennett Hill, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture;
Laurence I. Hewes, Jr., of California, to be regional director, Farm
Security Administration.

Passed S. 3069, increasing the lending authority of the Export-
Import Bank by \$100,000,000 so as to provide for loans to Finland and
China.

Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported: S. 3227, to en-
able the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with State agencies,
to prevent pullorum and other diseases of poultry, and to improve
poultry, poultry products, and hatcheries; without amendment (S. Rept.
1197); S. 3226, to facilitate national-forest administration, with
amendment (S. Rept. 1201); and four bills to facilitate control of soil
erosion and flood damage in the Cleveland, Angeles and Sequoia National
Forests of California and the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests of
Arkansas.

Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation reported with amendment
S. 3136, to authorize an appropriation for construction of small
reservoirs under Federal reclamation laws (S. Rept. 1204).

Special Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources submitted
a report (S. Rept. 1203). Mr. Pittman submitted a resolution (S. Res.
236) to make this committee a standing committee of the Senate.

Messrs. Glass, Byrnes, Russell, Adams, McCarran, Hale, and Townsend
were appointed Senate conferees on H. R. 7922, independent offices ap-
propriation bill.

House Began debate on H. R. 8438, naval appropriation
Feb. 13 bill, which was reported from Committee on Appropria-
tions (H. Rept. 1587).

Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments reported
without amendment H. R. 8307, to change the date of transmission to
Congress of the Budget in years in which a new President takes office
(H. Rept. 1587).

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Some Crops The Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin says that in
Survive Cold the more southern states, crops that escaped the recent
hard freezes are showing fair revival. In Florida good
rains and moderate temperatures were decidedly favorable for planting,
replanting, and germination, with the replanting nearly completed in
the southern part of the state. Considerable hardy truck survived the
freeze and is being marketed, with strawberries again moving locally.
Tentative estimates place loss of citrus fruit at about 11 million
boxes. In central Gulf sections, while the general outlook shows some
improvement, it was mostly too wet and cool for best results. In
Texas the outlook is poor. Onions and cabbage were severely damaged,
but will survive, while there is no hope for other truck.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, 34

Section 1

February 16, 1940

WALLACE

DISCUSSES

FARM INCOME

Secretary Wallace told the House Agriculture Committee yesterday that his "income certificate" system of processing taxes offered the best way to enable farmers to "withstand the stresses of the present war," says an A.P. report. Indeed, he said, the national welfare requires Congress to increase farm income. The Secretary recommended the certificate plan for boosting the cash yield for products of such crops as cotton, wheat, tobacco, rice, prunes and raisins.

For certain other crops, such as corn, which do not pass through a centralized manufacturing process, he recommended increased government appropriations for benefit payments. The Secretary outlined four alternative methods for increasing farm income: Increased appropriations for subsidies, price fixing, government loans that would peg commodity prices at higher levels and the marketing certificate plan.

TESTIMONY

ON FARM

MORTGAGES

"The Temporary National Economic Committee turned yesterday to the problem of farm mortgages as one phase of its life insurance study and heard recommendations from Dr. William G. Murray, professor of agricultural economics at Iowa State College, for cooperation between the Farm Credit Administration and the Farm Security Administration to buy the farms which they occupy," reports John H. Crider in the New York Times. "He also urged that life insurance companies, which in 1937 owned 7.4 percent of Iowa's farm land, undertake a reappraisal of the foreclosed Iowa farm properties which they cannot sell. He said these properties might be overvalued.

"Norman Wall, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, testified that at the beginning of 1938 the life insurance companies, the credit agencies of three states, the Federal Land Banks and the Joint Stock Land Banks, together owned 29,000,000 acres of foreclosed farm property or 3 percent of all the farm lands in the United States.

"Life insurance companies and the federal government are rapidly becoming the largest farm owners in the country and all to the detriment of the farmer," Senator O'Mahoney, committee chairman, commented..."

RETIREMENT

The plan to put the contribution of government employees toward the Civil Service retirement fund on a sliding scale as a means of establishing more liberal optional retirement ages appeared likely to be abandoned yesterday after the Civil Service Commission reported it would cost the government more "unless the benefit payable from government contributions is reduced." (Washington Star.)

Bang Disease Successful Farming (February) contains an article
Experiments by Colin Kennedy, which presents evidence for and
 against calfhood vaccination for Bang's disease. "Some
states," the article says in part, "have been doing experimental work
with vaccination (Michigan and New Jersey are examples). "Reports
from Michigan indicate that it has advantages. Other important live-
stock states have done little or nothing. Some of the opposition to
living culture vaccine seems to be based on results with strains more
potent than Strain 19, and on cattle other than young calves. Some
regulatory authorities are opposed to it on the ground that it inter-
feres with 'test and slaughter' work by rendering positive tests for
some time after it is first injected. Also, its use might make
'reactors' out of animals that otherwise would not qualify for avail-
able indemnity funds. In fact, it was used in this way in the earlier
days of more liberal payments by a few men who thereby found a more
profitable outlet for otherwise clean cattle.

"The increasing use of vaccines, however, without the official sanction of authorities gives rise to the threat that indiscriminate use of the product may give it a black eye. Vaccines of doubtful strength and value are being offered by some mail-order and fly-by-night firms. Their use by amateur needle-pushers is frowned upon by many who would like to see calf vaccination given a fair trial; for best results and to avoid unfavorable reactions it would seem that vaccination by veterinarians knowing their job should be encouraged. Whether or not state regulations governing Bang's testing will be liberalized to meet special conditions remains to be seen...."

Increasing Milk Sales Milk Plant Monthly (February) contains an article on the various plans being tried for increasing milk sales by quantity discounts. These are: two-quart and one-gallon bottles; consolidated or cooperative deliveries; six-day deliveries; consolidated deliveries and higher prices for special deliveries; voluntary reduction of routemen's wages; and multiple quart bottle deliveries. It says a comprehensive report on the milk market of New Haven, Connecticut, was prepared at the instance of the State Milk Administrator. "The survey was made during 1938," it says, "and consequently misses the introduction of the two-quart and one-gallon bottle which were only beginning to be tried out. It goes rather fully into the Elwell plan (multiple quart deliveries) and is noteworthy for several recommendations which are worth careful study, such as consolidated deliveries, abolition of Sunday deliveries, unified special deliveries with an advance in price, powerful trade organizations, improvements in routemen's work, etc."

Meteorology

of Byrd

Expedition

"Supplement No. 41 of the Monthly Weather Review of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, issued last October, is an account running to 377 pages of the meteorological results of the Byrd Antarctic Expeditions of 1928-30 and 1933-35, by C. Grimmer and W. C. Haines," says Nature (London, January 6). "Part of the data had been prepared in the Antarctic in 1929-30 by W. C. Haines and H. T. Harrison.....The completeness of the meteorological record under the most trying conditions testifies to the keen work not only of the meteorologists but also of those who assisted, notably the leader of the expedition during his lonely vigil during the whole of an Antarctic winter night less than 100 from the Pole. In spite of difficulties arising from the intense cold, from drifting snow and frosting of the lenses of the pilot balloon theodolites, pilot observations of upper wind were made at Little America on 569 occasions during the 310-day period when the pilot balloon station was in operation on the second expedition. A critical discussion of the results obtained will, it is hoped, be made in due course, although no objection can be made to this early publication of the raw material for such a discussion."

Range Land

Restoration

"Restoration of depleted range lands and timber areas of the intermountain forest regions, with resultant conservation of water supplies and denuded terrain, is rapidly reaching a satisfactory solution through efforts of the intermountain range and experiment division of the regional Forest Service," says a report in the Salt Lake Tribune. "This was revealed in a survey of experimental results of the past four years by Reed W. Bailey, director of the intermountain forest and range experiment station. The expanded work of the range reseeding experimental work undertaken throughout the intermountain region during the summer of 1939 will in a few more seasons of test work yield valuable information for farmers, stockmen and conservationists of the area, he declared.

"Although the experiment station has carried on range experimental work since 1936, it was not until the summer of 1939 that it was possible to spread the work over the broad scope of the intermountain country to test reseeding methods and species under most conditions where this form of range improvement might be undertaken on a big scale," Mr. Bailey said. In 1939 alone technicians directing the reseeding research operations set out 4804 plots, using 249 species of grasses, weeds and shrubs to test their responses to artificial seeding under nearly every condition of moisture, soil, slope, elevation and climate. Gathering of the seed to be tested was from all parts of this country and many foreign countries, even remote parts of the world. (PPS130.)

House Committee on Public Lands reported with amendment
Feb. 14 S. 2152, to protect scenic values along the Catalina
Highway within the Coronado National Forest, Ariz.,
(H. Rept. 1599).

Committee on Public Lands reported without amendment H. R. 6975,
to provide for reconveyance to Montana of a portion of the land with-
in the Yellowstone National Park (H. Rept. 1601).

The Senate was not in session.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Employment The number of people working on farms increased
on Farms by approximately 140,000 persons from January 1 to
February 1, the Agricultural Marketing Service has
reported. This raised the total of family and hired workers to
8,781,000 persons or 73 percent of the 1910-14 average on the first
of this month as compared with 74 percent a year earlier. This was
the lowest February 1 total for the 15-year period covered by the
monthly record.

Cold Lockers "Butchering and all other homely tasks connected
for Farmers with the farm family food supply have now advanced
into the realm of big business," says an editorial in
the Farmers Guide (February 10). "Early last month 500 operators of
the nation's 2,000 cold storage locker plants met at Des Moines to
form the National Food Locker Association. The locker idea has been
gathering momentum since 1922, gradually pushing eastward. In Illi-
nois alone there are more than 110 established plants whereas only
one or two existed prior to 1937. Working hand-in-glove with the
extension of electricity to farm families, the locker movement opens
a further development in the form of a home-built, walk-in type of
refrigerator containing a freezer or 'zero room.' If such a unit can
be built and operated economically it will provide the storage space
which the farmer now gets from the central cold storage locker plant.
It remains to be seen whether that will be a boon or a barrier to
central cold storage locker plants."

Purebreds Importations of purebred animals into the United
States for breeding purposes increased during 1939 as
shown by the certificates issued by the Department. A total of 15,212
certificates were issued for purebred animals imported for free entry
under the tariff law, or 2,162 more than during 1938.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 35

Section 1 February 19, 1940

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM ON AGRICULTURE

The Republican Program Committee yesterday, in its report outlining a platform for adoption by the national convention, recommended a farm program that will make possible:

(1) A real "parity" based on such relationship between the prices of what the farmer sells and the prices of what he buys as will create the greatest possible interchange of goods and services between country and city.

(2) Expansion of the farmer's market rather than a reduction of his output.

(3) Selective tariff adjustments to protect the farmer's home market and promote exports.

(4) Expansion of industrial use of farm products.

(5) Encouragement of cooperative marketing.

(6) Rational adjustment of transportation costs.

(7) Retirement by lease of marginal and submarginal land.

(8) Thorough reorganization of the Soil Conservation Service in the interest of a more efficient soil conservation program.

(9) A transition policy of whatever degree of subsidy may be necessary until the total national program results in a balanced recovery.

Among other recommendations were: Repeal of the reciprocal trade agreement provision giving the President power to negotiate such treaties without approval by the Senate, with an amendment that such agreements shall be approved by both Houses of Congress; and improvement of the social security act with a view to extending its provision to farm labor and domestic help. (New York Times.)

BRITISH EXPORTS

Sir Samuel Hoare, Lord Privy Seal, warned in a speech in Nottingham (England) yesterday that unless Britain maintained her export trade she would lose the war, says a wireless to the New York Times from London. He pointed out the need for buying war supplies abroad with her export trade. He called on Britons to cut down on foods that must be paid for in foreign currency, to eat more home-grown products, to reduce the consumption of unnecessary foods and to avoid waste.

Officials'
Society

A note on the recently organized Society for Public Administration, by W. E. Mosher of Syracuse University, in the National Municipal Review (February) says its immediate objectives are four: "A meeting is planned each year, and it is hoped that close cooperation with the American Political Science Association may be maintained. A permanent secretariat will be set up in the near future. Regional and local chapters will be encouraged wherever membership and interest warrant. And finally, a quarterly journal devoted to subjects of general interest to public officials, researchers, students, and teachers of public administration will be issued....Persons interested in applying for membership or receiving further information about the society should address Stuart H. Van Dyke, acting secretary-treasurer, at the society's temporary headquarters, Box 36, University Station, Syracuse, New York."

Rothamsted
Report

A review of the annual report of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, by E. J. Roberts, in Nature (London, January 13) says: "The experiment on the continuous growing of wheat has now been in progress for nearly a hundred years, and it is interesting to note that the land has not become what might be termed 'wheat-sick'; the main difficulty has been in the suppression of weeds rather than in the actual growth of wheat. This conclusion is important at the present time. Why, it is asked, when these experiments prove clearly that wheat can be grown continuously on the same land, should difficulties arise when the crop is grown for a few years in succession on certain mechanized farms? An explanation is offered to the effect that the nature of the soil is responsible. Wheat is heavy-land crop, and, on the heavy Broadbalk soil, the crop remains healthy; diseases and pests are present; but they do little damage. The lighter soils, however, especially the light chalky soils on which many mechanized farms are situated, are more liable to contain diseases, such as take-all, lodging diseases and others, and the crop suffers more heavily...."

"Other long-term experiments recorded are those on organic manuring by means of green crops, town refuse and straw. The question of organic manuring, and of the use of town refuse in particular, is of more than ordinary interest today. It is interesting to note that a prepared town refuse gave encouraging results in a comparison with sulphate of ammonia, dung and rape dust. The refuse gave rather higher yields than farmyard manure providing equal nitrogen in three out of four comparisons, and did almost as well as sulphate of ammonia providing half as much nitrogen...."

**Thin-Wood
Pruning**

A note in *Successful Farming*, by W.J.H., says the Michigan station recommends the "thin-wood method" of pruning apple trees. "Studies at the station," it says, "group the 4-year-old producing wood on bearing apple trees of any age into 'thin' wood, branches having 4-year wood less than 1/4 inch in diameter; 'intermediate,' branches having 4-year wood from 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch in diameter; and 'thick' the branches having 4-year wood larger than 3/8 of an inch. The number of apples, their size, and amount and shade of coloring increase through these 3 divisions, the Michigan trials showed. It was found that the 'thin' wood mostly is in the lower, inner section of the tree and that it usually grows in a horizontal or downward direction.

"The 'thin-wood method' recommends removal of low-growing, large branches, producing much of the 'thin' wood, with a saw and then with the shears, snipping out the 'thin' ones still remaining in the center portions of the tree. The experiments show that trees so handled produced apples which in value exceeded those of unpruned trees by 11 percent and topped the crop from conventionally pruned trees by 21 percent."

**Rail-Truck
Organization**

Organization of the National Fitch Company was announced recently by Henry B. Spencer, president of the Fruit Growers Express Company, who said it was "an important step toward solving the national problem of rail-truck freight coordination." The National Fitch Company, Mr. Spencer said, will be owned jointly by the Fruit Growers Express subsidiary, the National Car Company and Motor Terminals, Inc., Cincinnati and New York. The Fitch system, Mr. Spencer explained, consists of equipment for transferring mechanically demountable tanks, truck bodies and containers from railroad flat cars to trucks or tractor-trailers and vice versa. (A.P.)

**Anglo-French
Trade Pact**

Britain and France are reopening their markets to a large range of imports from each other under a commercial agreement announced recently, says a London wireless to the New York Times. The compact will come into force March 3 and will considerably relax prohibitive measures imposed by both countries at the outbreak of the war. Britain had banned the import of "non-essential" products such as preserved fruits, brandy, wines, high-grade silks and model clothes. These bans are now eased in favor of France. Chief items among British exports that France will now take freely are coal machinery. France formerly imported large quantities of British wool and worsted piece goods. In fact, the textile trade of both countries had been the severest sufferer from protectionist policies on both sides.

Senate The following nominations were agreed to unanimous-
Feb. 15 ly: Claude R. Wickard, Under Secretary of Agriculture;
 Grover Bennett Hill, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture;
Laurence I. Hewes, Jr., regional director, Farm Security Administration.

 Passed H. R. 8068, Treasury-Post-Office appropriation bill, which
was reported with amendments by the Senate Committee on Appropriations
(S. Rept. 1205). Messrs. Glass, McKellar, Tydings, McCarran, Bailey,
Bridges, and Lodge were appointed Senate conferees on this bill.

 Received a report from the Secretary of the Treasury in compli-
ance with S. Res. 150, which requested financial statements from various
agencies, including CC Corporation, FCIC, REA, FCA, and FSA.

 Adjourned until Monday, February 19.

House Continued debate on H. R. 8438, Naval appropriation
Feb. 15 bill. Mr. Ludlow commended the reductions made by the
 House in the agricultural appropriation bill.

House Passed H. R. 8438, naval appropriation bill.
Feb. 16 Committee on Public Lands reported without amend-
 ment H. R. 8476, to adjust the boundaries of the
Cedar Breaks National Monument and the Dixie National Forest, Utah
(H. Rept. 1614).

 Received the annual report of the Rural Electrification Administra-
tion for 1939; to Com. on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

 Adjourned until Monday, February 19.

 (From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Bang's in Prospects in Illinois of cutting down Bang's disease,
Illinois which has cost an annual loss sometimes as high as five
 million dollars, have been improved by the import control
measure passed at the last general assembly, says J. H. Lloyd, director
of agriculture, according to an A. P. report. The law prohibits entry
of infected cattle into Illinois. Lloyd said the act was being enforced
and rigid inspection of herds within the state was maintained. (PPS133)

Redelberta "Almost everywhere peaches are grown in this
 country and Canada, eyes are on the New Elberta variety,"
says W.J.H. in Successful Farming (February). "It is called Redelberta.
A bud sport of the common Elberta, this new peach ripens ten days
earlier and carries more color. Redelberta trees have gone for trial
and observation to most of the United States areas that grow peaches."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVI, No. 36

Section 1

February 20, 1940

WINTER WHEAT INSURANCE

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation reported yesterday that 310,000 producers had insured their 1940 winter wheat crops. The number of policyholders in 1939 was 107,000. The winter wheat farmers are assured a production of 87,520,000 bushels on a total insured area of 8,902,000 acres. For this protection they paid premiums amounting to 11,375,000 bushels of wheat. Virtually all the winter wheat policies insure producers 75 percent of their normal yields. (A.P.)

FCA COUNSEL RESIGNS

The announcement of the resignation, effective March 1, of Peyton R. Evans, general counsel of the Farm Credit Administration, was seen yesterday as heralding a series of executive personnel shake-ups, indicating a break with the Administration's previous policies, says a report by a Washington Post staff writer. Evans' resignation was the first major personnel development in administration of the FCA's new Governor, A. G. Black. Evans will be succeeded by Robert K. McConaughy, Governor Black announced. Formerly head attorney in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, McConaughy is now a special assistant to the Attorney General.

U.S. FARM MORTGAGES

An official of the Prudential Insurance Company of America--which owns \$45,000,000 of American farm land--expressed the opinion to the Monopoly Committee yesterday that the "farm situation is becoming adjusted and stabilized" in the wake of a period of extensive foreclosures, says an A.P. report. At the same time, however, R. R. Rogers, Prudential vice-president, warned that there were many uncertainties in the farm outlook, such as drought and war. The Prudential official and Glen Rogers, farm loan manager for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, both testified that their companies were anxious to make more farm loans and to sell land acquired in foreclosures as rapidly as possible.

WEATHER UNIT

In preparation for the beginning next month of transatlantic air services from La Guardia Field (N.Y.) radio operators there began yesterday to correlate weather reports gathered by two new stations at Sayville, L.I., and Barnegat, N.J., under supervision of the Civil Aeronautics Authority. When complete the new radio set-up will give four-tape weather data ten hours a day. (New York Times.)

Australian Wheat Breeding Reviewing wheat breeding in Australia, Alan R. Raw, cereal geneticist of the Department of Agriculture of Victoria, says in the January Journal of the Department: "The first outstanding success was the production of the variety Free Gallipoli which displaced Federation from its premier position in 1930. Five years later, Free Gallipoli was itself displaced by a second departmental production, Ghurka, which is today the most popular variety. The displacement of Free Gallipoli as the most extensively grown variety was in a large part due to the inferior milling and baking quality of the grain which it produced, but in this regard it must be remembered that in the initial stages of any wheat-breeding scheme, primary attention must be devoted to improvement in yielding ability, to be followed, at a later stage, by improvement in such characters as grain quality and resistance to disease. Particularly is this the case in countries in which wheat is bought and sold on an F.A.Q. basis, irrespective of the milling and baking quality of the grain.

"Today, the two most extensively grown wheats in Victoria are Ghurka and Ranee, both of which are definitely superior to Free Gallipoli in yield and grain quality. The latest departmental production, Regalia, is also an early maturing variety. On a conservative estimate the introduction of these varieties means a definite net gain to the Victorian farmer of 750,000 pounds per annum, thus demonstrating the value of the activities of this branch of the Department of Agriculture...."

Ohio Bang's Disease "Practical eradication of Bang's disease from dairy and breeding cattle in 209 counties in 17 states has been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture," says an editorial in Farm and Dairy (February 9). "Not one of those 209 counties are in Ohio....For years we have fought a consistent battle to have the state legislature, and even the dairymen, recognize the terrible inroads that are being made in the Ohio cattle industry by this disease. We have pointed out that means have been found to eradicate the malady (even though those means are often costly), and we have urged that the program be made broad enough to do the job thoroughly. Considerable progress has been made, it's true. But so much work is yet to be done that the future looks anything but bright...."

Plastic Milk Containers Newsweek (February 19) reports that one of the biggest United States glass manufacturers is getting ready for mass production of transparent-plastic milk bottles. These bottles possess almost all the advantages of glass bottles and yet are extremely durable, enabling dairies to employ less care and more speed in washing, filling and handling.

Specialized R. R. Cars

Of the 62,000 freight cars most recently ordered or placed in service by the railroads, about half conform to special needs of shippers on the lines to which these cars belong, says Business Week (February 17). "Besides the roads' antipathy for tying up capital in cars that cannot be as profitable as the average car," it says, "they dread what the Interstate Commerce Commission may do about it. The question is whether higher rates on shipments in such cars, to give the roads a share of money saved for shippers and consignees, are obtainable from the ICC, and whether such higher rates would send this business to the motor truckers. Also, whether providing special-purpose cars at no extra charge constitutes discrimination.

"Most generally useful and productive of back-haul revenue are conventional cars specially equipped to handle a given commodity but not made unfit for other lading. Example: Steel box cars, wood-lined, ceilings insulated to prevent condensation dripping....Further from the conventional is the 'parts car,' an ordinary boxcar with racks or bins to handle some specific product not packed....Still more expensive is special-purpose equipment built new -- for instance, hopper cars, with weather-tight roofs. These are for cement and mineral products that must be kept dry....Special-type cars are further specialized for a particular service. Examples: the Illinois Central's 50 refrigerator cars equipped with special bulkheads for dairy products; its 25 refrigerators for dressed poultry and 25 slightly different for cheese--all with basket-type bunkers, special car linings, and special recording thermometers that can be read outside...."

Synthetic Fibers

Chemical Industries (February) which contains an article on "Progress in Synthetic Fibers," comments editorially: "Too late to be incorporated in this article is the announcement that after ten years of experimentation lines of rayon floor coverings are now available. This latest innovation opens still another field for yarns and staple fiber that will call for a new, steady, yearly poundage. When one considers that our rayon industry largely if not entirely dates from the World War, the consumption of rayon filament of 356,000,000 pounds really constitutes a remarkable achievement. Rayon staple fiber likewise showed a new consumption record, the total of about 100,000,000 pounds being an increase of 88 percent over 1938. Despite large increases in rayon productive capacity in the last two years, producers' stocks of yarn at the close of 1939 amounted to just one week's supply."

Rail Rate on Citrus

The Interstate Commerce Commission prescribed recently that the all-rail rate on citrus fruit from Florida to Baltimore must be 5 cents a box higher than the truck-water rate contemporaneously in effect. It said progressive rate-cutting by both groups of carriers "has resulted in an unnecessary lessening of revenues." (A.P.)

Grading of Beef

"There is concrete evidence of the producer's interest in beef grading in resolutions passed by many producers' organizations advocating government grading," says Sleeter Bull in an article in the National Live Stock Producer (February). "Many of us feel that returns from low grade cattle are too high and returns from high grade cattle are too low. In my opinion, the only way relatively higher prices may be obtained for quality cattle is to stimulate the demand for quality beef. This can be done by guaranteeing the quality of the product to the consumer who is able and willing to purchase quality beef, but is unable to select it from its appearance....The U. S. Department of Agriculture in July, 1939, issued new standards for grading beef. The new standards provide for the grading of beef from steers, heifers and cows on its eating qualities without sex identification...."

"While it is impossible to make any definite statement until the new system of grading has had a fair trial, it is conceivable that the omission of the sex stamp may work a hardship upon both the cattleman and the consumer. If a considerably greater amount of beef is graded under the new standards than under the old, this advantage may offset any possible disadvantage due to omission of the sex identification. I believe that the grading of beef, if accompanied by an educational program conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Colleges, the Institute of American Meat Packers, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the Association of Retail Meat Dealers, and similar groups, will be of benefit not only to producers but also to packers, retailers and consumers."

Livestock on Farms

Numbers of livestock on farms January 1 were substantially larger than last year, the Agricultural Marketing Service has reported. Total cattle numbers were up about 3 percent; hogs, 18 percent; sheep, 1 percent; chickens, 4 percent; and turkeys, 33 percent. But work stock -- horses and mules -- showed a decline in numbers, continuing the downward trend which has been noted for 20 years. The increases in meat animals and poultry were general over the whole country, but the largest increases were noted in the West North Central States where numbers were sharply reduced during the drought years. When the numbers of all species are converted to an animal unit basis, which allows for differences in size and feed requirements of the several species, the total animal units were about three and one-half percent larger than a year earlier. The increase in number of animal units during 1939 was the fifth largest in 50 years.

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 21, 1940

RIVER-HARBOR BILL REVISED A step toward large economies in appropriations, involving an unprecedented division of the omnibus rivers and harbors authorization bill into four separate measures, was taken by the Senate Committee on Commerce yesterday, says a report in the New York Times. This committee, of which Senator Bailey is chairman, directed a subcommittee to reconstruct the bill and prepare the four measures for a report to the Senate next week. The committee will submit separate recommendations for navigation work, flood control, power development and mixed projects which embody two or more of these activities in single operations.

COTTON FOR MATTRESSES The Department yesterday announced expansion of its surplus cotton distribution program to include the furnishing of cotton to low-income families for use in home mattress-making. This will be in addition to present programs under which surplus cotton is made available for state and WPA cotton mattress manufacturing for relief distribution. The new program will be initiated in about sixty counties in a number of the leading cotton-producing states on an experimental basis. The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Extension Service and other agencies will cooperate in carrying out the program, which has been developed under the direction of Assistant Secretary Hill.

TRADE PACT AMENDMENT Representative Coffee of Nebraska took a leading position in the movement to alter the Hull trade agreements bill yesterday with the submission of an amendment which would make all future reciprocal tariff treaties subject to Senate ratification, says an Associated Press report. Coffee asserted that his amendment would "assure American agriculture, labor and industry an adequate opportunity to be heard" on all future trade pacts. The House quit for the day before voting on amendments.

CITRUS RATES The Interstate Commerce Commission refused yesterday to permit railroads to increase charges for transporting citrus fruit from California, Arizona, Texas and Florida to destinations throughout the country. The roads proposed to revise estimated weights on citrus loaded in containers. (A.P.)

Pan-American Trade Report Some slight readjustment of inter-American commercial relationships has resulted from the European war, but "only a bare beginning has been made toward the full realization of Western Hemisphere economic potentialities," the Foreign Policy Association declared in a report made public recently. The report was prepared by Howard J. Trueblood of the association's research staff.

"There are many subsidiary issues at stake," the report said, "but the scope for readjustment is revealed by the fact that in the three years, 1936-39, the United States bought a total of \$86,000,000 more goods from Latin-America than were sold there. Income on United States investments in Latin America aggregated \$567,000,000, to which must be added \$110,000,000 in bond redemptions and sinking-fund operations, making a total of \$677,000,000. Leaving out of consideration all other factors this country would have had to purchase almost \$600,000,000 more of Latin-American goods during this period to balance accounts." (New York Times.)

Education in Housing A national educational program to inform Americans having incomes of \$1,000 to \$10,000 a year, how housing services of local savings and loan associations, banks, private industry and government agencies may help them build or improve their homes has been announced by J. W. Studebaker, commissioner of education. Radio, printed bulletins and graphic exhibits are now to be combined for information and education. Among the agencies which have created the exhibits and are cooperating in the educational program are Central Housing Committee, Federal Housing Administration, National Bureau of Standards, Forest Products Laboratory, Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Bureau of the Census, United States Public Health Service, and the United States Housing Authority. (New York Times.)

Price, Demand Situation The decline in industrial activity during January apparently had little or no effect upon consumer demand for farm products, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. The improvement in the general level of farm prices which has occurred since December apparently was due mostly to unusual weather conditions affecting supplies, rather than to changes in demand. The recession in industrial production which appeared in January is continuing at about the same rate. Though no immediate turnabout is in prospect, the decline probably will be halted in time to prevent any major decrease in consumer income and demand for farm products.

Senate

Feb. 19

Bills passed: H. R. 3794, to establish King's Canyon National Park, Calif., to transfer thereto lands now included in the General Grant National Park (this bill will now be sent to the President); S. Con Res. 18, providing for investigation of conditions in Puerto Rico, including the effect of the Sugar Act of 1937 and the trade-agreement program; S. 3227, to enable the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with State agencies, to prevent pullorum and other poultry diseases, and to improve poultry, poultry products, and hatcheries; H. R. 112, to facilitate control of soil erosion and flood damage in Ozark and Ouachita National Forests, Ark. (this bill will now be sent to the President); S. 2773, to authorize the payment of compensation to recess appointees in certain cases where Senate confirmation is necessary.

Bills passed over after discussion: S. 3136, to authorize an appropriation for construction of small reservoirs under the Federal reclamation laws; S. 915, to provide for the more expeditious settlement of disputes with the United States.

Mr. McNary submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to H. R. 8202, agricultural appropriation bill, to add \$3,000 for a report on forest land in Lincoln County, Oreg. Mr. Clark of Idaho submitted the following amendments which he intends to propose to the Forest Service items in the bill: Increase general administrative expenses by \$2,000; increase national forest protection and management by \$2,120,485; increase forest management by \$2,900; increase forest products by \$68,200; increase forest economics by \$900; increase forest influences by \$400; increase forest-fire cooperation by \$540; increase acquisition of lands by \$900; increase forest roads and trails by \$2,500,000.

Received the annual report of the Rural Electrification Administration for 1939; to Com. on Agriculture and Forestry.

Adjourned until Thursday February 22.

House

Feb. 19

Bills passed: S. 1850, to aid the States and Territories in making provisions for the retirement of employees of land grant colleges (this bill will now be sent to the President); S. 2876, to amend the Annual and Sick Leave Acts of 1936 so as to provide that only workdays shall be charged against leave (this bill will now be sent to the President); H. R. 8151, to provide travel expenses of civilian officers and employees on official change of station; H. R. 7019, to amend section 1 of the act providing punishment for the killing or assaulting of Federal officers so as to include game wardens, etc.; H. R. 8307, to change the date of transmission to Congress of the Budget in years in which a new President takes office.

Bills passed over after discussion: H. R. 7878, to amend the crop-loan law so that liens given by tenants shall relate to only so much of the crop as represents their interest under their operating agreement with the landlord; S. 1610, to prevent discrimination against graduates of certain schools, and those acquiring their legal education in law

offices, in making legal appointments.

Began debate on H. J. Res. 407, to extend for 3 years from June 12, 1940, the President's authority to enter into reciprocal trade agreements.

Bills reported: Committee on Public Lands reported with amendment H. R. 8157, to establish a national land policy, and to provide homesteads for actual farm families (H. Rept. 1618); Committee on Judiciary reported without amendment H. R. 8119, to amend the Criminal Code so as to confer concurrent jurisdiction on courts of the U. S. over crimes committed on certain Federal reservations (H. Rept. 1623).

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Economic
Civil War

In "Our Economic Civil War" in February American Mercury, Ruth Finney writes on interstate tariff barriers. "Court action under the commerce clause would seem to be the most obvious remedy," she says in the concluding paragraphs. "The Supreme Court recently declared invalid a law passed by Florida attempting to levy an 'inspection fee' on cement imported from foreign countries. However the Court has sustained some laws that seem to operate as barriers, while rejecting others. Furthermore, as Attorney General Jackson has pointed out, not all trade restrictions can be attacked in this manner, since some of them are unquestionably within the power of the States to impose. The repeal amendment, for instance, specifically gave the States authority to regulate liquor traffic across their borders.

"However, Jackson suggests in an article in The Annals of the American Academy, just published, that while removing barriers through case-by-case adjudication may not be feasible, Congress has at its disposal other means of action which might reach some of the abuses. It might, he believes, impose uniform regulations which would supersede local inspection and quarantine laws that have proved definitely burdensome to interstate commerce; and it might even limit State taxing powers in order to prevent restriction of trade....."

Civil Service
Examinations

The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 17, unassembled; Technical Expert in Design and Distribution of Educational Publications, \$3,800, Office of Education, Federal Security Agency; No. 18, unassembled; Specialist in Exhibits, \$3,800, Extension Service; No. 19, unassembled; Senior Specialist in Social Group Work, \$4,600, Specialist in Social Group Work, \$3,800, Associate Specialist in Social Group Work, \$3,200, Children's Bureau. Applications must be on file not later than the following dates: (a) March 18, if received from States other than those named in (b), (b) March 21, if received from the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 23, 1940

NATIONAL INCOME National income turned upward in 1939, the net value of goods and services produced being estimated at \$68,500,000,000, the Department of Commerce said yesterday in its Survey of Current Business. The year was marked by a renewal of the upward trend in national income which began in 1933 and was interrupted only in 1938, the survey said. The gain was estimated at \$4,500,000,000 or 7 percent over 1938. "As average prices and living costs were approximately the same in both 1938 and 1939, the increase in national income in the latter year indicates quite accurately the gain in 'real' income," the survey said. (New York Times.)

SPOKANE LAND BANK The president and vice president of the Federal Land Bank of Spokane and a member of the president's staff resigned day before yesterday in protest against the policies of Governor Black of the Farm Credit Administration and Secretary Wallace, according to an Associated Press report. They were E. M. Ehrhardt, for thirteen years head of the institution which serves 35,000 member-stockholders in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana; Ward K. Newcomb, vice president and an official with the bank since 1925; and John R. Becker, who has served as auditor, comptroller and office manager for ten years. Resignations were to be effective March 1.

FSA MAKES TENANT LOANS Approval of the first 200 of 2,000 projected loans and grants to southeastern Missouri sharecroppers, tenants and farm workers as part of a ramified labor rehabilitation and housing plan for this area was announced yesterday by the Farm Security Administration. The program is intended to stabilize living conditions in seven counties at the Missouri "boot-heel" where tenants and sharecroppers last year demonstrated on the highways. Loans and grants are expected to run 300 each week until quotas are administered.

A recent Missouri Employment Service survey indicated that 925 families and laborers in this district had no location for the 1940 cotton crop season. Other families are said to be economically threatened by over population. (New York Times.)

"Balanced"

Research

"In a recent statement before the congressional subcommittee on farm chemurgy, L. F. Livingston made an apparently good point in urging that the four regional laboratories of the U. S. Department of Agriculture should not be limited to a study of surplus farm products, but should be free to study and develop possible industrial applications of anything that is or might be grown on the farm," says an editorial in Agricultural Engineering (February). "Surplus farm products offer an attractive starting point in that they represent an unsatisfactory status quo in balance between production and consumption. They have proven fairly well adapted to production under climatic and soil conditions which exist in certain parts of the United States, and to farm production methods and equipment. They have been improved by breeding for efficient production. The obvious weakness is insufficient use at the price for which farmers can afford to produce these commodities, and the obvious remedies are new uses and lower production, handling, and processing costs.

"The present status quo, however, does not necessarily represent the ultimate in the biological foundation of farm production. It does not preclude the possibility of finding or developing new crops, species, breeds, and varieties for effective use of land and other farm production facilities to produce new and valuable organic compounds; higher quality or new combinations of qualities in familiar organic compounds; or established market commodities at lower costs which would stimulate use, increase volume demand, and provide a satisfactory margin of farm profit. There is also the possibility of producing here, economically, some farm commodities which have previously been given an uneconomic joyride from foreign countries simply because American farmers have not yet succeeded in meeting our domestic market demand for all the farm products which our soil and climate would enable them to produce. Development of these possibilities by research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture is consistent with its policy of basic and applied science research based on a long-range view of the interests of American farmers. The implied research in agricultural chemistry and agricultural engineering is a logical and necessary step toward profitable farm application of much of the biological knowledge gained by the research of the Department's plant explorers and other biological scientists...."

Electric

Fences

The head of the agricultural engineering department at Wisconsin, F. W. Duffee, discusses code regulations for the electric fence, in a paper in Agricultural Engineering (February). His conclusions are: "The electric fence is going to be an increasingly important item of farm equipment. If not properly limited in its electrical output, it is highly dangerous; if not well constructed, it may become dangerous. It is,

therefore, important that purchasers be able at least to secure good advice on such purchases, and it would seem preferable in a matter of such grave importance that the purchasers be protected by legislation.

"Many of the members of our society will be consulted for advice regarding purchases of controllers and also pertaining to legislation. It would be highly desirable if we could agree on a uniform program which would permit standardization by manufacturers with resultant lower costs to the farmer. It should be comparatively easy to establish a uniform program at this stage of electric-fence development, when only two or three states have definite regulations. The formulation of a uniform policy, is, I believe, the greatest problem for us in this field today."

1940 Deere
Medalist

"Selection of Walter Wesley McLaughlin (Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering) to receive the John Deere Gold Medal for 1940 seems a singularly happy choice in that his achievement fits well the purpose of its donors; that is, to recognize advancement in the application of science to soil in ways that redound substantially to human weal," says Agricultural Engineering (February). "Fellow workers who have watched the unfolding of the soil and water resources of the West, say that McLaughlin deserves a place beside that dean of desert and valley, the late Elwood Mead....His whole career has been one of steady advancement in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, except for service in 1911-14 as professor of irrigation and drainage at Utah State Agricultural College. In 1925 he became assistant chief of the Division of Irrigation, and in 1930 reached his present rank as division chief. He is also consulting engineer to the chief of the Soil Conservation Service, advising on all irrigation aspects of the Service, including administration of the Water Facilities Act; and water policy consultant of the U.S.D.A. Office of Land-Use Coordination. His degree of master of science in soil physics and irrigation was conferred by the University of California in 1924...."

Fats, Oils
Production

United States production of fats and oils from domestic and imported materials in 1939 was the largest on record, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported. Disappearance also exceeded all previous figures, and the supply now on hand is slightly smaller than the record stocks at this time a year ago. Production totaled about 9.1 billion pounds in 1939. This compares with 8.7 billion pounds in 1938. Nearly 8.4 billion pounds of the 1939 total were produced from domestic materials, as compared with 8.0 billion pounds in 1938.

Capital Markets Stuart Chase, author of "Shadow Over Wall Street," in March Harper's, writes on evidence given last year in the T.N.E.C. hearings on idle money. "Milo Perkins gave significant testimony about excess capacity," the author says in part. "It consisted of case histories rather than figures. Mr. Perkins is a Texas manufacturer, now in charge of the famous Food Stamp Plan of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. He has been keeping a record of conversations with business men who come to see him in Washington. Many come. He asks them about plant expansion in their business. 'I find,' he says, 'that most business men are intimately aware of the lack of opportunity for capital investment in their own particular line, but they do a great deal of wishful thinking about the large number of jobs which could be created in the other fellow's back yard.'...Each group affirms that its business is different; it needs no more capacity--heaven forbid; but billions are required elsewhere. 'I haven't found any group of manufacturers in the country who recommend the building of additional plants, with the national income where it is now; who recommend them in the line of business with which they are intimately familiar--hosiery, cotton textiles, cottonseed oil, bagging, and so on down the line...

"Evidence was produced by Dr. Will Alexander (Farm Security Administrator), Milo Perkins, John Ferris and others to show that millions of people stand in dire need of a decent house to live in, enough good food to eat, adequate clothes to wear, better medical care and educational facilities. Mr. Perkins said that if everybody in the United States spent as much money for cotton goods as is now spent by families in the \$2,500 income group, they would add half a billion dollars to the income of the South, and increase cotton consumption by two million bales. This demand could be paralleled for nearly every common article you can think of. If we could somehow finance it, the pull on both agriculture and industry would be terrific, passing capacity in many cases and calling for new plant and equipment."

Labor Standards Additional pressure by farmers' organizations for amendment of the fair labor standards act is seen as a probable result of the suit filed against Swift & Company this week by the wage and hour administration in federal district court, says a report by the Wall Street Journal Chicago Bureau. The suit asked an injunction to restrain the packing company from alleged violation of the overtime provisions of the act. It charged that the company had failed to pay time and a half to workers not exempted by the act and had improperly taken the 14 week exemption for eligible employees at different times instead of simultaneously. Instead of the broader overtime payment exemptions for processors of agricultural products which the Farm Bureau Federation and other groups have been seeking for more than a year, the administration's suit would restrict to narrow limits the exemptions open to packers and other processors.

DAILY DIGEST

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U.S. FARM INSTITUTE

Howard Coonley, chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, Chester Davis, member of the Federal Reserve Board, and other speakers told more than 1,000 farm representatives at the annual National Farm Institute at Des Moines this week end that the chance of a war boom was remote, says a special report to the New York Times. Spokesmen for agriculture, labor, industry and government variously urged that the United States should stay out of the European war. More than one speaker had praise for Secretary Hull's reciprocal trade agreements program.

Philip Murray, vice president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, termed unemployment the "number one problem" of agriculture as well as of organized labor. Emil Loriks, director of the National Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Ralph Smith, Master of the Iowa Grange, and Earl C. Smith, vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, all said that the United States should stay out of the European war.

Dr. John D. Black, professor of Economics at Harvard, Gerald Thorne, director of research for Wilson & Company, packers, and R. M. Evans, Agricultural Adjustment Administrator, were agreed that the war in Europe would result in no profits for the American farmer. "It now seems clear," said Mr. Evans, "that the one person in America who is not going to profit from this war is the farmer. There is nothing on the war horizon that indicates any need for stepping up the production of cash crops. The war is destroying, rather than building, foreign trade for American agriculture...I am solidly behind every effort to increase our domestic consumption."

SUPPLY BILL

"A new 'economy' drive is being organized in the Senate with the object of finding savings in general appropriations to finance more than \$200,000,000 of farm benefits which were rejected in the House as a result of a warning by President Roosevelt that new taxes would have to be levied to finance such continued payments," says C. W. Hurd in the New York Times. "This movement gathered momentum as preparations were made to start this week a study by an agriculture subcommittee of the bill to finance the Department of Agriculture in the next fiscal year..."

TRADE PACT

A telephone report from Rome to the New York Times says an agreement to regulate the commercial exchanges between Germany and Italy for the current year has been signed. The agreement covers 5,500,000,000 lire nearly equally distributed between the two countries.

Farm-Motor Reciprocity "One-fourth of all the trucks and one-sixth of all the automobiles manufactured and sold in the United States are purchased by the American farmer," says an article on "Reciprocity at Home -- Agriculture and Motor Industry" by John W. Gibbons, in Capper's Farmer (March). "In 1938, the Automobile Manufacturers Association estimates, 6,380,000 men and women were paid \$7,233,000,000, directly or indirectly, to build, distribute, drive and service motor vehicles, creating a market for large amounts of farm products. The first four decades of the twentieth century produced this business and social partnership. More than 17,000,000 American workers -- 10,242,000 on farms and 6,380,000 in motor transport -- are embraced directly in its operation, and it has altered basic rural social patterns. Moreover, it has become a dominant factor in the national economy.

"The motor vehicle itself, of course, is a big market for farm produce; bigger, in fact, than many farmers realize. Last year nearly \$35,000,000 worth of corn, cotton, hides, turpentine, and other agricultural commodities were purchased for the manufacture of vehicles and their parts.....Some of the big items in 1938 were, for example: corn, 1,115,000 bushels (for starch, alcohols, etc.); leather from 256,000 cattle hides; soybeans (for plastics, etc.) 680,000 bushels; wool (for upholstery, floor coverings, etc.) 15,422,000 pounds; flaxseed (for linseed oil in paints) 174,700 bushels; hogs (for fats and hair) 36,000; turpentine (for paints) 4,828,200 pounds, or approximately 2 pounds for each vehicle manufactured...."

Wintex Barley "A new barley that may be used for either winter or spring seeding has been developed through cooperative research by the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Texas Experiment Station," says R. I. Throckmorton, Kansas State College, in Country Gentleman (March). "The variety, which has been named Wintex, originated as a pure line selection from a local strain of winter barley. I. M. Atkins, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, working at Denton, Texas, made many selections from local fields of barley in 1931... Wintex differs from Tennessee winter and the local strains in plant characteristics by having earlier maturity, more upright growth during the fall and winter, earlier spring growth, broader leaves and in producing more pasture. The straw is strong, thus making the variety satisfactory for harvesting with the combine. It differs from the other varieties in grain characteristics by having much higher yields and in producing larger kernels. Winter hardiness tests conducted by the Department of Agriculture show Wintex to be definitely less winter hardy than Tennessee winter...."

Senate Committee on Judiciary reported with amendment
Feb. 21 S. 1935, to amend section 75 of the Bankruptcy Act
(Frazier-Lemke farm-bankruptcy provisions) (H. Rept.
1658). This Committee also submitted minority views on H. R. 6324,
Logan-Walter bill to provide for more expeditious settlement of
disputes with the U.S. (H. Rept. 1149, pt. 2).

Senate Received a letter from the Acting Secretary of
Feb. 22 Agriculture, responding to S. Res. 225, requesting the
Department to survey forest land in Lincoln County,
Oreg., by saying the survey will require an appropriation of \$3,000.
Mr. McNary has submitted an amendment to be proposed to the agricul-
tural appropriation bill, to provide this \$3,000.

Mr. Wiley submitted amendments to be proposed to the agricultural
appropriation bill, H. R. 8202, to provide the following increases:
Forest Products Laboratory, \$64,181; crop and livestock estimates,
\$47,510.

Adjourned until Monday, February 26.

House Passed H. J. Res. 407, to extend the Reciprocal
Feb. 23 Trade Agreements Act for 3 years from June 12, 1940,
without amendment, by a vote of 216 to 168. By a vote
of 163 to 222, rejected Mr. Treadway's motion to recommit the resolu-
tion with instructions to add an amendment making trade agreements
subject to congressional approval, providing for appeal by American
producers, and prohibiting tariff reductions on products which compete
with American products. All the numerous amendments submitted were
rejected.

Committee on Banking and Currency reported with amendment S. 3069,
to provide for increasing the lending authority of the Export-Import
Bank so as to permit loans to Finland and China. (H. Rept. 1670).

Adjourned until Monday, February 26.

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Record Dairy Total consumption of all dairy products, including
Consumption fluid milk and cream and manufactured products (milk
equivalent), established a new high in 1939 about 17
percent above the 1924-29 average, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics
has reported. On a per capita basis, the combined consumption (milk
equivalent) of butter, cheese, concentrated milks, and ice cream --
but not including fluid milk and cream -- was the highest in over 40
years.

Interpreters of Science

Key jobs in the upper ranks of industry are awaiting an oncoming generation of young men now receiving their scientific or technical training in American universities, says a Science Service report on a recent meeting of the American section of the Society of Chemical Industry. Increasingly, said Dr. E. C. Williams, director of research and vice-president of the Shell Development Company, technically trained men are finding their way on to the directorate boards of companies. But until the day when every industry follows this practise there must be better links between management and research.

Misunderstanding may arise out of the backgrounds of research and executive leaders, Dr. Williams continued. The executives -- handling finance, commercial and organizational affairs -- are influenced greatly in their decision by human relationships. The executive technique is accomplished through persuasion, compromise, leadership and personal determinations. The training of research men, in contrast, has no place for personality or persuasion because a scientist deals with material things like the properties of matter and forces of nature which are outside the realm of human things. To bridge the gap between these two poles is the need of every industry.

War and U.S. Trade

Purchases of United States products by foreign countries either in preparation for war or as a result of the war had an appreciable effect in maintaining our position last year as a country with a large surplus of merchandise exports over imports. Without that stimulus the two basic trade factors would have come considerably closer to a balance, although by no means would they have reached one. This finding was indicated in a summary of the balance-of-payments and international-investment position of the United States in 1939, issued by the Department of Commerce and prepared by Drs. Paul D. Dickens and August Maffry of the Finance Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. (New York Times.)

Tire for Lister

A new tire for the front wheels of tractors used in lister farming operations has been developed, reports Implement & Tractor. The tire "features an unusual tread angle, said to solve the problem of keeping tractor wheels on top of the ridges in the cultivation of listed row crops. The tread angle bevels toward the inner side and permits it to ride the top of the ridge without swerving from side to side, thus preserving the ridge and preventing excessive damage to crops. The new tire is of 4-ply construction."

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February 27, 1940

FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT

The House Appropriations Committee granted an additional \$60,000,000 for farm benefit payments yesterday in approving a deficiency supply bill. Secretary Wallace also told the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday that failure to vote parity funds "or their equivalent" might seriously hamper crop control programs and create new price depressing surpluses. The Secretary testified on the House-approved agriculture department bill, which makes no provision for parity funds. (A.P.)

DOMESTIC WHEAT SUPPLY

Although domestic wheat prices recovered this month almost to the peak levels of December because of unsatisfactory crop conditions in Europe, increased foreign demand for United States wheat and a fairly orderly liquidation of wheat loans, the domestic carryover on July 1 next is likely to amount to 300,000,000 bushels, compared with 254,000,000 last year at the same time, the Department of Agriculture reports. Total supplies for the year were 1,009,000,000 bushels, consisting of the carryover and a production of 755,000,000 bushels. (New York Times.)

TRADE PACT TESTIMONY

Secretary Hull described continuance of the reciprocal trade program yesterday as necessary to help establish sound world conditions after the European war. The Secretary told the Senate Finance Committee: "The need for keeping alive the principles which underlie the trade agreements program is crucial now, during the war emergency, and will be of even more decisive importance after the war. Even a temporary abandonment of the program now would be construed everywhere as its permanent abandonment." Secretary Hull was the first witness before the committee. (A.P.)

FLORIDA CITRUS ACT

The Supreme Court, in a 5-3 decision and an opinion by Justice Roberts, refused yesterday to pass on the constitutionality of a Florida law providing for the fixing of minimum prices on the state's citrus fruit crops. It said that when the District Court for southern Florida held the act unconstitutional it was passing on an issue not before it. The case was returned to the lower courts for further hearings. (New York Times.)

Accidents
on Farms

The American Journal of Public Health (January) contains a study by the Alabama health officer of deaths in that state from farm accidents. "During the 6-year period 1933-1938, 44 of each 100 deaths from all home accidents, and 1 in 5 of all deaths from accidents in industry, were caused by accidents which occurred on farms," it says in part. "Approximately 310 deaths can be attributed to farm accidents annually, a much greater number than to any of the acute contagions taken singly. Just as in the case of the communicable diseases, accidents are in no small measure preventable, and should be considered and treated as such in all public health programs. Accidents do not 'just happen'; they are the result of a specific cause or group of causes. To date, little information of value exists regarding the detailed causes of death from farm accidents....Once the causes of farm accidents are determined, then the county health officer and his personnel should, through education and widespread promulgation of rules for their prevention, be just as successful in their reduction as safety engineers have been in the reduction of accidents in industrial plants. Information should be made available to all schools and to the farm group through 4-H clubs, county home demonstration and farm agents, by the newspaper, radio, and all other accepted means of public health education."

Brahman
Cattle

Attempts to combine the tolerance of Brahman cattle to tropical and semi-tropical conditions with the superior beef-producing qualities of the country's major beef breeds are being made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, says James W. Sartwelle, American Brahman Breeders Association, in an article in March Farmer's Digest (condensed from Texas Farming and Citriculture). "Along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas are pastures which may be grazed nearly the year-round. But the American breeds that thrive in cooler climates do not do so well under the semi-tropical conditions along the gulf. In experiments conducted at the Iberia Livestock Experiment Station, Jeanerette, La., under the immediate supervision of A. O. Rhoad, Aberdeen-Angus cattle were crossed with the Brahmans....In crossing purebred Brahman bulls on our native cattle or on British breeds, the fine qualities of the Brahman cattle retained in the cross to such an extent that even halfblood and above Brahman animals will be immune to ticks. The crosses are larger in size, make excellent gains either on the range or in the feed lot and better still, will usually dress out a much higher percentage of meat. These cattle are making a distinctly constructive contribution to the livestock economy of the United States, and any cattleman, farmer or feeder in the Coastal area would do well to look into the merits of this fine breed. The American Brahman Breeders Association has registered some 25,000 head of cattle..."

Domestic Consumption Milo Perkins, president of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, speaking to the National Farm Institute recently, predicted that the agricultural export trade of the United States would be in an even worse condition after the present war. He urged concentration "on efficient and businesslike methods of increasing domestic consumption, no matter how much violence it may do to some of our preconceived notions," he added. "This nightmare of underconsumption is the black plague of the twentieth century. We've got to make up our minds to wipe it out -- with a vengeance. Only one thing can stop us, and that's a mental sit-down strike, a kind of smug, nineteenth-century faith that things will work themselves out if only we don't do anything about it." Mr. Perkins announced that by July 1 the food stamp plan would be in effect in about 100 cities and that 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 persons would be sharing in "this dual effort to find a wider market for surplus agricultural commodities and to improve the diets of low-income persons in our cities." More than 600 cities had applied for the food stamp program, he said. (New York Times.)

Australian Wheat Control "Controversy continues to rage around the question of restriction of wheat sowings in Australia," says an editorial in the Pastoral Review (Melbourne, January 16). "In assessing the probabilities with regard to demand and price next season many factors must be considered, but as most of them are absolutely incalculable it is not an easy matter to arrive at an accurate estimate of what the future holds in store. Seasonal conditions and their effect on yield, war factors, and the wheat production policies of other countries will all have a bearing on supply and demand. They may result in a shortage and a reversion to profitable prices, but they may, on the other hand, have the effect of making still more acute the existing problem of excessive supplies...

"Australian wheatgrowers do not want a repetition of unpayable prices and the national exchequer cannot stand an indefinite continuance of the heavy financial drain involved in subsidising an unprofitable industry. Restriction of production is not a policy of despair, as it is so often called. It is a policy of commonsense when unrestricted production means excessive supplies which, if they can be sold at all, can only be disposed of at prices that mean ruin to the grower....The Federal Government will doubtless continue to give aid to the wheat industry, but such aid must obviously have limits, and beyond the area permitted by those limits farm lands will have to be utilised for other production purposes."

World Trade Writing on "The Struggle for World Trade" in the
Competition Magazine of Wall Street (February 24) H. M. Tremaine
 says in part: "On the surface the United States seems
to have little ground for complaint. Exports picked up with the out-
break of war and they have continued to gain....The objection to an
attitude of meek thankfulness for the progress shown in recent months
may seem unreasonable, but there are good reasons for it. In the first
place, we know that the gains are fortuitous and undependable. Sales
of aircraft and machine tools in large quantities are windfall business,
not a true enlargement of trade. Exports to Japan were rushed because
of fear that expiration of the treaty with that nation in January might
bring some obstacles to future shipments. At least part of the increase
in business with Latin-America was due to the initial disorganization
of the British economy in the first few months of the war. England has
already shown definitely that she wants that business back and is taking
steps to get it.

"However, even if the gains are essentially temporary ones caused
by the war and slated to disappear with peace, they should be welcome.
Unfortunately, they have another disadvantage. Instead of buying what
we have for sale the rest of the world very naturally does its own
shopping in the American storehouse, shrugs indifferently at wheat, is
still doubtful about cotton and oil, knows better places to get tobacco
and fruit. The certain things they want from us, the aircraft and ma-
chinery, they can get nowhere else. If they could they probably would,
because neither American products nor American dollars are cheap. Any
of these facts may change with little warning....."

Loans for In four years of successful financing of 4-H Club
Farm Youth and Future Farmers projects, local production credit
 associations have loaned more than one and a half
million dollars, C. R. Arnold, Acting Production Credit Commissioner
of the Farm Credit Administration, has reported. Under the supervision
of teachers of vocational agriculture, county agents, club leaders and
other farm leaders, more than 8,000 boys in 1939 borrowed \$584,000 to
finance baby beef projects, dairy, poultry, corn and other activities.
Loans are being made in every section of the United States. During
1939 the largest amounts were loaned in the St. Louis, Houston, Wichita,
Louisville and Columbia, South Carolina, Farm Credit Districts. The re-
payment record of these boys has been good, Mr. Arnold reported.

Construction Construction work in the United States, aided largely
in 1939 by Federal projects, has been estimated by the Department
 of Commerce to have reached a value in 1939 of about
\$10,000,000,000, a figure about 12 per cent above the total for 1938.
The report noted, however, that little of this increase was due to
business construction, which "increased only moderately as compared with
1938." (Press.)